United Nations A/RES/72/224

General Assembly

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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 19 (i)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.9)*]

72/224. Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999, 55/205 of 20 December 2000, 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 December 2003, 60/199 of 22 December 2005, 62/197 of 19 December 2007, 64/206 of 21 December 2009, 66/206 of 22 December 2011, 69/225 of 19 December 2014, 70/201 of 22 December 2015 and 71/233 of 21 December 2016, as well as its resolutions 65/151 of 20 December 2010 on the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All and 67/215 of 21 December 2012, in which it decided to declare 2014–2024 the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

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Welcoming the Paris Agreement[1] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome[3] and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[4]

Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[5] and Agenda 21[6] and the principles set out therein, and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)[7] and the outcome documents of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[8] the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway",[9] the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, entitled "Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024",[10] and the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, entitled "Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020",[11]

Welcoming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,[12]

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing the need for the creation of an enabling environment at all levels and across all sectors for the achievement of sustainable development,

Emphasizing that universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all is an integral part of poverty eradication and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and that the increased use and promotion of new and renewable energy, including in decentralized systems, and energy efficiency could make a significant contribution in that regard,

Deeply concerned that over 3 billion people in developing countries, especially in rural areas, rely on traditional biomass for cooking and heating, with

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[1] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[3] Resolution 60/1.

[4] Resolution 65/1.

[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[6] Ibid., annex II.

[7] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[8] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[9] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[10] Resolution 69/137, annex II.

[11] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[12] Resolution 71/256, annex.

disproportionate health and workload impacts on women and children, that almost 1.1 billion people are without access to electricity, that Africa accounts for more than half of both access figures and that, even when energy services are available, millions of poor people are unable to pay for them,

Expressing concern that, at current rates of progress, none of the energy targets of the Sustainable Development Goals will be achieved by 2030,

Noting that energy represents less than 1 per cent of overall United Nations expenditure on the Sustainable Development Goals,

Emphasizing the critical socioeconomic benefits of affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy and the need to reframe the understanding of energy from a technical unit to a requirement for basic social services, economic development and poverty eradication,

Highlighting the importance of the empowerment of developing countries to achieve universal access through the rapid expansion of affordable sustainable energy worldwide,

Recognizing that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that this includes the mobilization of financial resources, as well as capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed,

Welcoming the significant reductions in the cost of renewable energy, the sector's net positive job contributions and the rapid expansion of renewable energy capacity additions, which are now greater than those of other energy power sources, and noting that the levelized cost of solar and wind energy in many regions of the world is fully competitive with traditional energy sources,

Taking note with appreciation of the work of multi-stakeholder partnerships, including Sustainable Energy for All, which has given a strong momentum to the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency, the initiatives of the Global Climate Action Agenda, the Small Island Developing States Lighthouses Initiative, SIDS DOCK and others that can contribute to reaching the objective of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all,

Noting with appreciation the work of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which facilitates the widespread and increased adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy,

Stressing the need for a coherent, integrated approach to energy issues and the promotion of synergies across the global energy agenda, with a focus on eradicating poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All,[13] calls for the rapid implementation of the strategic objectives as defined in the global plan of action for the Decade, as described

[13] A/72/156.

in a previous report of the Secretary-General on the topic,[14] and also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;[15]

2. *Also takes note* of the role and activities of the International Renewable Energy Agency, and encourages the Agency to continue to support its members in the achievement of their renewable energy objectives;

3. *Strongly encourages* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to take actions to achieve universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, increase the global share of new and renewable energy, improve the inclusion of developing countries in energy sector cooperation, where relevant, and increase the rate of improvement in energy efficiency for a clean, low-carbon, climate-resilient, safe, efficient, modern and sustainable energy system, given the systemic sustainable development benefits, while taking into consideration the diversity of national situations, priorities, policies, specific needs and challenges and capacities of developing countries, including their energy mix and energy systems;

4. *Calls for* ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, as such services are an integral part of poverty eradication measures, human dignity, quality of life, economic opportunity, the combating of inequality, the promotion of health and the prevention of morbidity and mortality, access to education, safe drinking water and sanitation, food security, disaster risk reduction and resilience, climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental impact reduction, social inclusion and gender equality, including for persons affected by humanitarian emergencies;

5. *Underscores* the importance of access to cleaner and more efficient cooking and heating methods, welcomes ongoing efforts, and in this regard calls for the promotion of an enabling environment at the national and international levels for the increased usage of sustainable, cleaner and more efficient cooking and heating methods in all countries, in particular developing countries;

6. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders to leverage the cost-competitiveness of renewable energy, especially in off-grid areas, in order to achieve universal energy access, such as by establishing policy frameworks for metering and payment systems, requiring cost comparisons between grid extension and off-grid solutions, facilitating investment by domestic and foreign banks and educating students, communities, investors and entrepreneurs on renewable energy and energy efficiency, among other activities, where feasible and appropriate;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to expand the use of renewable energy beyond the power sector, taking into account national priorities and constraints, to industry, heating and cooling, construction and infrastructure and, in particular, the transport sector, including through sustainable sector coupling, in the context of sustainable development, including climate change, and calls for supportive policy initiatives and investments at the national and international levels;

8. *Recognizes* that current global progress in improving energy efficiency falls well below the pace necessary to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030, and encourages, in accordance with national laws and regulations, the adoption of building performance codes and standards, energy efficiency labelling, the promotion of energy management systems, the retrofitting of existing buildings and public procurement policies on energy, among other modalities, as

[14] See A/69/395, sect. III.
[15] A/72/160.

appropriate, as well as the prioritization of smart grid systems, district energy systems and community energy plans to improve synergies between renewable energy and energy efficiency, which aim to promote the interconnectivity of clean and renewable energy infrastructure and improve energy efficiency;

9. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources;

10. *Encourages* Governments, relevant international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to use and promote an integrated resource planning and management approach in their energy strategies that considers energy choices in the context of linked sectors, inter alia, water, waste, air quality and food, taking into account national circumstances;

11. *Recognizes* that sustainable energy access and deployment can both improve and be accelerated by gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and calls upon Governments, the United Nations development system and other stakeholders to increase educational and capacity-building programmes for women in the sector, promote women's full, equal and effective participation and leadership in the design and implementation of energy policies and programmes, mainstream a gender perspective in such policies and programmes and ensure women's full and equal access to and use of sustainable energy to enhance their economic empowerment, including employment and other income-generating opportunities;

12. *Emphasizes* the potential of sustainable energy use to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, recognizes that increasing the deployment of renewable energy is a component of many countries' nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1] and urges effective and timely support for the full implementation of those contributions, as applicable;

13. *Notes* that the impacts of climate change can also threaten access to and the supply of energy, and also notes the importance of increasing the resilience of the energy sector to climate change, in particular regarding sources of renewable energy such as hydropower, among others;

14. *Emphasizes*, while noting progress, that the large-scale deployment of technologies has been uneven and that support is required to realize their potential, along with appropriate policy initiatives and investments at the national and international levels, with Governments working in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;

15. *Also emphasizes* the value of regional and interregional approaches, which can, among other advantages, enhance the deployment of renewable energy by facilitating the sharing of experiences, reduce transaction costs, leverage economies of scale, enable greater cross-border interconnectivity to promote energy system reliability and resilience and augment domestic capacity-building, and recognizes the work of organizations and initiatives in that regard;

16. *Invites* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, to continue ongoing efforts and take further action to provide financial resources, as appropriate, to support efforts aimed at ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including low-carbon and climate-

resilient new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, especially focused on energy access and economic development in both urban and rural areas, while noting the potential catalytic effect of concessional and other finance and taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries;

17. *Encourages* the development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, and highlights the importance of integrating sustainable energy in the Technology Facilitation Mechanism;

18. *Stresses* the importance of strategies and contributions by Governments and relevant stakeholders to multi-stakeholder partnerships in ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, and encourages coordination and collaboration between the United Nations and relevant multi-stakeholder partnerships, such as Sustainable Energy for All;

19. *Recognizes* the catalytic effect of capacity-building and technical assistance on sustainable energy deployment, and encourages existing and new efforts to enable Governments from developing countries and relevant stakeholders to plan, finance, implement and monitor sustainable energy projects to further strengthen their national institutions and capacities;

20. *Encourages* the development of viable market-oriented strategies that could result in further rapid reductions in the cost of new and renewable sources of energy and could further increase the competitiveness of those technologies, including through the adoption, as appropriate, of public policies for research, development and market deployment, including rationalizing inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances;

21. *Also encourages* research and development and the development of viable market-oriented strategies that could result in further competitiveness and rapid reductions in the cost of sustainable energy;

22. *Calls for* national efforts to promote access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and strengthened local engagement to complement current approaches, and reaffirms the commitment to supporting subnational and local efforts, taking advantage of their direct control, where applicable, of local infrastructure and codes to foster uptake in end-use sectors, such as residential, commercial and industrial buildings, industry, transport, waste and sanitation;

23. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue efforts to promote the provision of stable, adequate and predictable financial resources and technical assistance for sustainable energy and to enhance the effectiveness, coordination and full utilization of appropriate international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects for ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;

24. *Encourages* the entities of the United Nations development system, within their respective mandates, in the context of the implementation of resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016, to assist countries, upon request by their Governments, taking into account the need to improve coordination between them, and explicitly leveraging partnerships with other international organizations, donors and relevant stakeholders, including in their efforts to achieve universal access to sustainable energy and to accelerate its deployment;

25. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

26. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency and related sustainable practices in all United Nations facilities and operations around the world, set implementation targets and timelines, building on and avoiding duplication with existing initiatives, and report on progress, within the most relevant existing reporting frameworks;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including activities carried out to mark the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all", unless otherwise agreed.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.10)*]

72/225. Combating sand and dust storms

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling its resolutions 70/195 of 22 December 2015 and 71/219 of 21 December 2016 on combating sand and dust storms,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[1] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] that have not yet done so to deposit their

[1] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.
[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

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instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/7 of 27 June 2014 on strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality,[3]

Noting the adoption, by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-second session, of resolution 72/7 of 19 May 2016 on regional cooperation to combat sand and dust storms in Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which it endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",

Recalling also its resolution 71/229 of 21 December 2016 on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Taking note of the Regional Programme to Combat Sand and Dust Storms of the United Nations Environment Programme, and taking note also of other initiatives, including the ministerial meeting on sand and dust storms held in Nairobi on 21 February 2013 on the margins of the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/283 of 3 June 2015, and recognizing that one of the priorities for action of the Framework is an understanding of disaster risk for prevention and mitigation and for the development and implementation of appropriate preparedness and effective response to disasters, which continue to undermine efforts to achieve sustainable development,

Acknowledging that, based on the notion of hazards as defined in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[4] addressing multidimensional hazards, including those posed by sand and dust storms, contributes towards the achievement of the goals, targets and priorities for action set out in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,

Emphasizing the relevance of the efforts and cooperation of Member States at the regional and international levels to control and reduce the negative impacts of sand and dust storms on human settlements in vulnerable regions, taking note of the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in hosting a regional meeting of environment ministers in Tehran on 29 September 2010, welcoming the holding of other meetings with the active participation of all countries, and taking note with appreciation of other ongoing initiatives by various countries to combat sand and dust storms, especially at the regional level,

Stressing the need for cooperation at the global and regional levels with a view to managing and mitigating the effects of sand and dust storms through the enhancement of early warning systems and the sharing of climate and weather

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[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/69/25), annex.

[4] A/CONF.206/6 and A/CONF.206/6/Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

information to forecast sand and dust storms, and affirming that resilient action to combat sand and dust storms requires a better understanding of the severe multidimensional impacts of sand and dust storms, including the deterioration of the health, well-being and livelihood of people, increased desertification and land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and land productivity, and their impact on sustainable economic growth,

1. *Recognizes* that sand and dust storms and the unsustainable land management practices, among other factors, that can cause or exacerbate these phenomena, including climate change, pose a serious challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries and regions, also recognizes that, in the past few years, sand and dust storms have inflicted substantial economic, social and environmental damage on the inhabitants of the world's arid, semi-arid and dry subhumid areas, especially in Africa and Asia, and underscores the need to treat them and to promptly take measures to address those challenges;

2. *Recalls* its decision to convene a high-level interactive dialogue during its seventy-second session, to discuss action-oriented recommendations to address the economic, social and environmental challenges of the affected countries, including ways to improve policy coordination at the global level to address those challenges in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, and invites Member States, entities of the United Nations system, including regional commissions, and other relevant stakeholders to participate actively in the high-level interactive dialogue;

3. *Acknowledges* the role of the United Nations development system in advancing international cooperation and support to combat sand and dust storms, and invites all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and all other related organizations to integrate, in their respective cooperation frameworks, operational programmes, measures and actions aimed at combating sand and dust storms so as to address this problem and contribute to the enhancement of, inter alia, capacity-building at the national level, the implementation of regional and subregional projects, the sharing of information, best practices and experiences and the boosting of technical cooperation in the affected countries and countries of origin, to improve the implementation of sustainable land management practices, to take measures to prevent and control the main factors of sand and dust storms and to improve the development of early warning systems as tools to combat sand and dust storms in accordance with their strategic plans;

4. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to consider initiating an inter-agency process involving relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and existing resources, and taking into account United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/21 of 27 May 2016[5] and other relevant resolutions and decisions, to prepare a global response to sand and dust storms, including a situation analysis, a strategy and an action plan, which could result in the development of a United Nations system-wide approach to addressing sand and dust storms and which can be used as an inter-agency framework for medium- or long-term cooperation and division of labour;

[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/71/25), annex.

5. *Recognizes* the importance of new and innovative technologies and best practices in combating sand and dust storms, as well as their sharing and transfer on mutually agreed terms;

6. *Encourages* regional, subregional and interregional organizations and processes to continue to share best practices, experiences and technical expertise in combating sand and dust storms to address the root causes and impacts of sand and dust storms, including through improved implementation of sustainable land and management practices, and to promote regional cooperation in this matter to reduce the risks and impact of future sand and dust storms and to provide affected countries with capacity-building and technical support from the relevant United Nations organizations, such as the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, within their respective mandates, to this end;

7. *Invites* all affected Member States as well as relevant entities of the United Nations development system, regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to endeavour to meet the objectives set out in the present resolution;

8. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and, among other factors, is a serious challenge to the sustainable development of all countries, including those affected by sand and dust storms, and emphasizes that, among other factors, climate change is an important potential contributor to future wind erosion and the risk of sand and dust storms, especially the occurrence of more extreme wind events and the movement to drier climates, although reverse effects are possible;

9. *Recognizes* that sand and dust storms cause numerous human health problems in different regions around the world, especially in arid and semi-arid regions, and that there is a need to reinforce protective strategies to reduce negative impacts of sand and dust storms on human health, and invites the World Health Organization, with the cooperation of other relevant United Nations entities, as appropriate, to support affected countries in combating health problems caused by sand and dust storms, within their respective mandates;

10. *Commends* the commitment of the United Nations Environment Assembly to address sand and dust storms, and in this regard notes Environment Assembly resolution 2/21 on sand and dust storms, adopted during its second session;

11. *Notes* the convening of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi from 4 to 6 December 2017, under the theme "Towards a pollution-free planet", and affirms the importance of addressing sand and dust storms in the context of international efforts against air pollution;

12. *Welcomes* the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held in Ordos, China, from 6 to 16 September 2017, notes with appreciation the Ordos Declaration[6] and other relevant outcomes adopted by the parties during the Conference, namely decision 31/COP.13,[7] invites the organizations of the United Nation system to support their implementation, and reaffirms the importance of addressing sand and dust storms under the Convention;

[6] ICCD/COP(13)/21/Add.1, decision 27/COP.13, annex.
[7] See ICCD/COP(13)/21/Add.1.

13. *Notes* the International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, held in Tehran from 3 to 5 July 2017, which resulted in the Ministerial Declaration and technical recommendations of the Conference;[5]

14. *Encourages* the relevant entities of the United Nations, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and donors to provide capacity-building and technical assistance for combating sand and dust storms and to support the implementation of the national, regional and global action plans of the affected countries;

15. *Acknowledges* the global assessment of sand and dust storms, prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with other relevant United Nations entities, including the World Meteorological Organization and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, which sets out proposals for consolidated and coordinated technical and policy options for responding to sand and dust storms;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Combating sand and dust storms" unless otherwise agreed.

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[5] See A/71/999.

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/421)*]

72/226. Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), including its resolutions 56/206 of 21 December 2001, 65/165 of 20 December 2010, 66/207 of 22 December 2011, 67/216 of 21 December 2012, 68/239 of 27 December 2013, 69/226 of 19 December 2014, 70/210 of 22 December 2015 and 71/235 of 21 December 2016,

Reaffirming its resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016, entitled "New Urban Agenda", in which it endorsed the New Urban Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, as contained in the annex to the above-mentioned resolution,

Reaffirming also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated

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manner and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming further its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[1] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

Noting that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[3] can contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda,

Reaffirming the role and expertise of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), given its role within the United Nations system as a focal point on sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including in the implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with other United Nations system entities,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda[4] and on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat),[5]

Acknowledging that the implementation of the New Urban Agenda contributes to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated and coordinated manner at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders,

Reiterating the importance of the wide participation of all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda,

Reiterating its recognition that, over the years, the responsibilities of UN-Habitat have changed considerably in their scope and complexity,

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[1] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[3] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

[4] E/2017/61.

[5] A/72/311.

Recalling UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 26/8 of 12 May 2017, entitled "Promoting the effective implementation, follow-up to and review of the New Urban Agenda",[6]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General's High-level Independent Panel to Assess and Enhance the Effectiveness of UN-Habitat,[7]

Taking note also of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly, at its seventy-first session, on the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the positioning of UN-Habitat in that regard and the summary of the meeting prepared by the President of the General Assembly,[8]

1. *Urges* the United Nations development system to maintain support for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, adopted in Quito in 2016,[9] at all levels;

2. *Reiterates* paragraphs 166, 167 and 168 of the New Urban Agenda, in which, inter alia, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) was called upon to coordinate the preparation of the quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in close collaboration with other relevant entities of the United Nations system, ensuring an inclusive United Nations system-wide coordination process;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of promoting and taking concrete action for the full, effective and timely implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels;

4. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Invites* UN-Habitat, in accordance with its role as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including supporting the implementation and review of the New Urban Agenda, to collaborate with other United Nations programmes and entities, Member States, local authorities and relevant stakeholders, as well as through the mobilization of experts, to contribute to a United Nations system-wide strategy and continue generating evidence-based and practical guidance for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the related dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[10] as well as to further develop the action framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, in close consultation with Member States, local authorities and stakeholders;

6. *Requests* the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to establish an open-ended Working Group in Nairobi to examine, taking into account relevant work, including of mechanisms under the auspices of UN-Habitat, different options for strengthening Member States' oversight of UN-Habitat, including but not limited to those presented in the New Urban Agenda,[11] or a focused Executive Board, or a universal Urban Assembly, as well as appropriate combinations thereof, and decides that the mandate of this Working Group shall also include consideration of the appropriateness of financial rules and regulations and of personnel, procurement and budgetary matters, and requests the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to make available to Member States findings and recommendations

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[6] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/72/8), annex.

[7] A/71/1006.

[8] A/72/516.

[9] Resolution 71/256, annex.

[10] Resolution 70/1.

[11] See para. 172 (b) of the New Urban Agenda.

of the Working Group, including any necessary adjustments to existing UN-Habitat governance and administration arising from the options presented, as soon as possible, but no later than 30 June 2018, for the consideration and appropriate action of the General Assembly during the seventy-third session;

7. *Recognizes* the strong collaboration between UN-Habitat and regional and local governments, including through the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities and other platforms, working closely with other United Nations agencies, within their mandates and in accordance with national policies and priorities;

8. *Decides* to continue to promote the normative work of UN-Habitat, and urges UN-Habitat to ensure that its normative and operational activities are balanced, that its normative work guides and is integrated into its operational work and that the experiences gathered in the operational field feed into its normative work, in line with the principles and commitments of the New Urban Agenda and in support of the implementation of the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals;

9. *Recognizes* the need to ensure that UN-Habitat has appropriate capacity to generate, manage and disseminate its evidence-based urbanization knowledge, based on its normative and operational work, building on existing international instruments, assessments and information networks to raise public awareness of critical, as well as emerging, urbanization issues;

10. *Requests* UN-Habitat to hold, within existing formats, a strategic dialogue with Member States to discuss budgetary matters in order to permit the full and effective delivery of its mandate, in particular its normative work, as called for in paragraph 129 of the New Urban Agenda, as well as opportunities for increasing the efficient use of resources, bearing in mind its role in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;

11. *Invites* Member States, international and bilateral donors and financial institutions to contribute to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the urban basic services trust fund and other technical cooperation trust funds, and invites Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions to support the implementation of its mandate;

12. *Reaffirms* that, by readdressing the way cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed, the New Urban Agenda will help to end poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions, reduce inequalities, promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in order to fully harness their vital contribution to sustainable development, improve human health and well-being, foster resilience and protect the environment;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the national, subnational, local, regional and global levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national legislation and practices, as well as policies and priorities;

14. *Reiterates* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of UN-Habitat, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review with a view to improving its efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability in supporting the implementation of its mandate;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Malaysia for offering to host the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, in Kuala Lumpur from

7 to 13 February 2018, and reaffirms the role of the World Urban Forum as an advocacy platform for all stakeholders in the fields of human settlements and sustainable urbanization, based on its non-legislative nature;

16. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue its collaboration with international development banks and the private sector to ensure coherence of policy support and the alignment of large-scale urban investments with the principles of the New Urban Agenda and to facilitate increased investment in sustainable urbanization, including through, but not limited to, the Multi-Partner Implementation Facility for Sustainable Urban Development, the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund and the Climate Investment Funds;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)".

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/227

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 January 2018

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 21 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/422/Add.1)*]

72/227. Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/199 of 19 December 2007, 63/222 of 19 December 2008, 64/210 of 21 December 2009, 65/168 of 20 December 2010, 66/210 of 22 December 2011, 68/219 of 20 December 2013 and 70/211 of 22 December 2015 on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence,

Reaffirming the vital importance of an inclusive, transparent and effective multilateral system to address the urgent global challenges of today, recognizing the universality of the United Nations, and reaffirming also its commitment to promote and strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the role and authority of the General Assembly on global matters of concern to the international community, as set out in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing that, notwithstanding the opportunities and strong momentum to world economic growth brought by globalization, major challenges still remain to be addressed through multilateralism, and emphasizing the need to guide the direction of globalization and make it more invigorated, inclusive and sustainable,

Acknowledging that the United Nations, particularly the General Assembly, provides a universal and inclusive multilateral forum that confers incomparable value to its discussions and its decisions on global matters of concern to the international community,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for

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the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recommitting to setting out together on the path towards sustainable development, remaining devoted collectively to the pursuit of global development and "win-win" cooperation, which can bring huge gains to all countries and all parts of the world, and reaffirming that every State has, and shall freely exercise, full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activity,

Recognizing that globalization and interdependence imply that the economic performance of a country is increasingly affected by factors outside its geographical borders, that maximizing the benefits of globalization in an equitable manner requires coherent responses at the global, regional and national levels and that there remains a need for a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

Emphasizing that globalization is a useful tool for development that should benefit all countries and peoples and that every effort should be made by all to meaningfully integrate all countries into the global economy by creating an enabling international environment that is inclusive and mutually beneficial for their goods and services,

Reaffirming its strong support for fair and inclusive globalization and the need to translate sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth into sustainable development, particularly poverty eradication, and, in this regard, its resolve to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people, a central objective of relevant national and international policies and national development strategies, including strategies to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as part of efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

Reaffirming also that evidence shows that gender equality, women's empowerment and women's full and equal participation and leadership in the economy are vital to achieve sustainable development and significantly enhance economic growth and productivity, and that women play a critical role in development and contribute to structural transformation and that their full and equal participation in decision-making and the economy is vital in order to achieve sustainable development, and reaffirming that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress in realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming further that the spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies, as does

scientific and technological innovation across areas as diverse as medicine and energy,

Reaffirming the commitment to eradicate poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions and promote sustained, inclusive and equitable growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all and to promote the development of the productive sectors in developing countries to enable them to participate more meaningfully and effectively in and benefit from the process of globalization,

Recognizing that the international multilateral system should continue to support sustainable development in all countries, particularly in relation to sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, job creation and the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and hunger and achieve environmental sustainability, and should continue to promote good governance and the rule of law at all levels,

Expressing concern about the adverse impact of the continuing fragility of the global economy and the slow pace of restoration of global growth and trade, including on development, cognizant that the global economy remains in a challenging phase, with many downside risks, including net negative capital flows from some emerging and developing economies, continued low commodity prices, high unemployment, particularly among young people, and rising private and public indebtedness in many developing countries, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date in order to attend to those challenges and make progress towards sustaining global demand,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Fulfilling the promise of globalization: advancing sustainable development in an interconnected world";[1]

2. *Reiterates* the need for inclusive, transparent and effective multilateral approaches to managing global challenges, and in this regard reaffirms the central role of the United Nations system in ongoing efforts to find common solutions to such challenges;

3. *Reaffirms* the need for the United Nations to play a fundamental role in the promotion of international cooperation for development and the coherence, coordination and implementation of development goals and actions agreed upon by the international community, and reiterates its commitment to strengthening coordination within the United Nations in close cooperation with all other multilateral financial, trade and development institutions in order to support sustainable development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[2]

4. *Notes* the important efforts undertaken nationally, regionally and internationally to respond to the challenges posed by the financial and economic crisis, and recognizes that more needs to be done in order to promote the economic recovery, address turbulence in global financial and commodity markets, tackle high

[1] A/72/301.

[2] Resolution 70/1.

unemployment and unsustainable debt in several countries, as well as widespread fiscal strains, reinforce the banking sector, including by increasing its transparency and accountability, address systemic fragilities and imbalances, reform and strengthen the international financial system and continue and enhance the coordination of financial and economic policies at the international level;

5. *Encourages* Member States to advance economic reforms proactively, as appropriate, innovate the growth model and focus on the inclusiveness of development and, in the meantime, strengthen international cooperation and avoid inward-looking policies and protectionism, so as to promote an open world economy and generate greater positive effects of globalization;

6. *Recognizes* the critical role of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology and investment for inclusive and sustainable development and the need to provide integrated policy responses to issues arising in these areas, including to address inequalities within and among countries, and also recognizes the importance of international cooperation, finance, technology and capacity-building to supporting national efforts, in line with national priorities and respecting each country's policy space while remaining consistent with international rules and commitments;

7. *Also recognizes* the need for the multilateral trade, economic and financial architecture to incorporate and promote sustainable development and ensure greater coherence and coordination to promote an enabling international environment that facilitates the work of Member States in addressing, inter alia, poverty, inequalities and environmental challenges;

8. *Underlines* that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will depend on an enabling international environment for development and on facilitating the necessary means of implementation, particularly in the areas of finance, international trade, technology and capacity-building for developing countries, and in this regard calls for a sincere and effective follow-up on the global commitments of all actors;

9. *Recognizes* that the scaling up of successful policies and approaches in the implementation and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals needs to be complemented by an enhanced and revitalized global partnership and that this partnership should work in the spirit of global solidarity to support a truly universal and transformative global development agenda;

10. *Reiterates* that the creation, development and diffusion of new innovations and technologies and associated know-how, including the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, are powerful drivers of economic growth and sustainable development;

11. *Acknowledges* the impact of new technologies on labour markets, decent work and the jobs of the future, and in this regard notes the establishment by the International Labour Organization of the Global Commission on the Future of Work;

12. *Reaffirms* the need to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed;

13. *Underlines* the significant potential of regional economic integration and interconnectivity to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development, and reiterates its commitment to strengthening regional cooperation and regional trade agreements;

14. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to consider convening, in the second quarter of 2018, a thematic debate on how to maximize the benefits of globalization and interdependence in all countries in the context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

15. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", the sub-item entitled "Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/228

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 January 2018

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 21 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/422/Add.2)*]

72/228. Science, technology and innovation for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/200 of 23 December 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/205 of 22 December 2005, 61/207 of 20 December 2006, 62/201 of 19 December 2007, 64/212 of 21 December 2009, 66/211 of 22 December 2011, 68/220 of 20 December 2013 and 70/213 of 22 December 2015,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, 2009/8 of 24 July 2009, 2010/3 of 19 July 2010, 2011/17 of 26 July 2011, 2012/6 of 24 July 2012, 2013/10 of 22 July 2013, 2014/28 of 16 July 2014, 2015/27 of 22 July 2015, 2016/23 of 27 July 2016 and 2017/22 of 6 July 2017,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1] as well as the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society[2] and the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,[3] as well as other relevant intergovernmental outcomes,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[4]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest

[1] Resolution 60/1.
[2] See A/C.2/59/3 and A/60/687.
[3] Resolution 70/125.
[4] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recognizing the importance of technology as one of the key means of implementation in the pursuit of sustainable development, along with finance, capacity-building, an institutional framework and trade,

Taking note of the reports of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourteenth to twentieth sessions,[5]

Recognizing the central role that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development plays, as the United Nations focal point for science, technology and innovation for development, in analysing how science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, serve as enablers of the 2030 Agenda by acting as a forum for strategic planning, sharing lessons learned and best practices, providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in key sectors of the economy, the environment and society, and drawing attention to emerging and disruptive technologies,

Recalling its resolutions 64/208 of 21 December 2009, 65/280 of 17 June 2011, 66/212 of 22 December 2011, 68/222 of 20 December 2013, 70/215 of 22 December 2015 and 70/294 of 25 July 2016,

Recognizing the importance of the creation of a conducive environment that attracts and supports private investment, entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility, including an efficient, adequate, balanced and effective intellectual property framework, while encouraging access to science and technology by developing countries,

Recognizing also the vital role that science, technology and innovation, including environmentally sound technologies, can play in development and in facilitating efforts to address global challenges, such as efforts to eradicate poverty, achieve food security and nutrition, enhance access to energy and increase energy efficiency, fight diseases, improve education, protect the environment, accelerate the pace of economic diversification and transformation, improve productivity and competitiveness and ultimately support sustainable development,

Recognizing further innovation, such as pro-poor, inclusive, grass-roots and social innovation, that seeks to solve problems generally not addressed by markets,

Recognizing that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and recognizing also that there is a need to target

[5] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 11* (E/2011/31); ibid., *2012, Supplement No. 11* and corrigendum (E/2012/31 and E/2012/31/Corr.1); ibid., *2013, Supplement No. 11* and corrigendum (E/2013/31 and E/2013/31/Corr.1); ibid., *2014, Supplement No. 11* (E/2014/31); ibid., *2015, Supplement No. 11* (E/2015/31); ibid., *2016, Supplement No. 11* (E/2016/31); and ibid., *2017, Supplement No. 11* (E/2017/31).

science, technology and innovation strategies to address women's empowerment and inequalities, including the gender digital divide,

Recalling the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, adopted at its sixty-first session,[6] which, inter alia, highlighted the need for managing technological and digital change for women's economic empowerment, particularly to strengthen the capacities of developing countries, so as to enable women to leverage science and technology for entrepreneurship and economic empowerment in the changing world of work and to support women's access, throughout their life cycle, to skills development and decent work in new and emerging fields by expanding the scope of education and training opportunities in, inter alia, science, technology, engineering and mathematics, information and communications technology and digital fluency, and to enhance women's and, as appropriate, girls' participation as users, content creators, employees, entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders,

Recognizing that science, technology and innovation cooperation and collaboration with, as well as foreign direct investment in and trade with and among, developing countries is fundamental to enhancing their ability to produce, access, comprehend, select, adapt and use science, technology and innovation knowledge,

Recognizing also the importance of supporting the policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science and technology through North-South cooperation, and South-South cooperation, which is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation, and triangular cooperation by encouraging financial and technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions, including technical programmes,

Recognizing further the need to mobilize and scale up financing for innovation, especially in developing countries, in support of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Concerned that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that, for the poor, the promise of science, technology and innovation remains unfulfilled, and emphasizing the need to effectively harness technology to bridge the digital divide within countries and between developed and developing countries,

Recognizing that international support can help developing countries to benefit from technological advances and enhance their productive capacity to build, support and nurture innovation capacity to enable the development, adoption and dissemination of technology,

Reaffirming the need to enhance the science, technology and innovation programmes of the relevant entities of the United Nations system, and in this regard recalling the mandate of the United Nations inter-agency task team, as part of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, on science, technology and innovation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals to promote coordination, coherence and cooperation within the United Nations system,

Noting with appreciation the collaboration between the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in designing and carrying out science, technology and innovation policy reviews,

Recalling paragraph 114 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in which it was noted that the creation, development and diffusion of new innovations and

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[6] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 7* (E/2017/27), chap. I, sect. A.

technologies and associated know-how, including the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, are powerful drivers of economic growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing the importance of an enabling environment at all levels, including enabling regulatory and governance frameworks, in nurturing science, innovation, the dissemination of technologies, particularly to micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as industrial diversification and value added to commodities,

Taking note of the launch of the United Nations World Data Forum, which sets out to improve the use of data for sustainable development, noting that the first Forum was hosted in Cape Town, South Africa, from 15 to 18 January 2017, and looking forward to the convening of the second, to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in October 2018,

Noting the ongoing efforts by the World Intellectual Property Organization, under its existing mandate, to establish technology and innovation support centres in over 60 countries, providing access to technological information through patent databases and access to scientific literature through the Access to Research for Development and Innovation programme, the Access to Specialized Patent Information programme and the development of national intellectual property and innovation strategies,

Reaffirming the importance of supporting the African Union's Agenda 2063, as well as its 10-year plan of action, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and regional initiatives,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General,[7]

1. *Reaffirms its commitment*:

(a) To support better coordination and coherence, including the application of best practices in coordination and the sharing of lessons learned among United Nations agencies and international organizations providing technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of science, technology and innovation directed towards development priorities and needs;

(b) To promote and support greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, including appropriate technology;

(c) To support the efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means;

(d) To the actions agreed upon by the least developed countries and development partners on science, technology and innovation, as outlined in paragraphs 52 and 53 of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries

[7] A/66/208, A/68/227, A/70/276 and A/72/257.

for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;[8]

2. *Also reaffirms* the commitments that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference of Financing for Development[9] has made in, inter alia, science, technology and innovation, as an important action area for sustainable development;

3. *Further reaffirms* the central role of Governments, with active contributions from stakeholders from the public and private sectors, civil society and research institutions, in creating and supporting an enabling environment for innovation and entrepreneurship and the advancement of science, technology and engineering, in accordance with national priorities;

4. *Recognizes* the current role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant United Nations entities, as well as other relevant organizations, in helping Governments, upon request, to ensure that science, technology and innovation policies are integrated into and are supportive of national development strategies and sustainable development in their countries and that their science, technology and innovation policies and programmes support national development agendas;

5. *Also recognizes* that science, technology and innovation, including information and communications technologies, are essential enablers and drivers of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[10] and of the full participation of developing countries in the global economy;

6. *Underscores* the need to adopt science, technology and innovation strategies as integral elements of national sustainable development strategies that help to strengthen knowledge-sharing and collaboration and scale up investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, and enhance technical, vocational and tertiary education and training;

7. *Recognizes* that full and equal access to and participation in science, technology and innovation for women of all ages is imperative for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and underlines that addressing barriers to equal access for women and girls to science, technology and innovation requires a systematic, comprehensive, integrated, sustainable, multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach, and in this regard urges Governments to mainstream a gender perspective in legislation, policies and programmes and encourages efforts to mentor, attract and retain women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and research;

8. *Notes* the importance of facilitating access to and sharing accessible and assistive technologies, through the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and other actions, to advance disability-inclusive development, ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities and promote their empowerment, recognizing that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population;

9. *Requests* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to continue to assist the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society[2] and

[8] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[9] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[10] Resolution 70/1.

to continue its science, technology and innovation activities, including by sharing best practices;

10. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with relevant partners, such as the World Intellectual Property Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations University, to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies and ensuring that such policies and programmes are supportive of national development agendas, as appropriate, and in this regard looks forward to the broadened framework being developed by the Conference for national science, technology and innovation policy reviews in order to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals, as appropriate;

11. *Encourages* the World Intellectual Property Organization to continue to undertake technical support activities, including helping countries to design, develop and implement national intellectual property and innovation strategies aligned with their development strategies;

12. *Welcomes* the establishment and operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, takes note with appreciation of the contributions that Turkey has made and of the pledges that the least developed countries and other countries have made to the Technology Bank, and invites Member States and other stakeholders to provide voluntary funding to the trust fund for the Technology Bank so that it can pursue its objectives in the area of science, technology and innovation for the least developed countries;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of ensuring that the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries works in close coordination with the various institutions working in the field of science, technology and innovation to foster synergies and avoid duplication of efforts, including, and in particular, working in close cooperation with the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, and vice versa;

14. *Encourages* Governments to strengthen and foster investment in research and development for environmentally sound technologies and to promote the involvement of the business and financial sectors in the development of those technologies, and invites the international community to support those efforts;

15. *Encourages* efforts to increase the availability of data to support the measurement of national innovation systems (such as the existing global innovation indices) and empirical research on innovation and development to assist policymakers in designing and implementing innovation strategies in order to measure the impact of digital technologies for sustainable development;

16. *Also encourages* enhanced capacity-building support for developing countries, including for African countries, the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries, in order to generate the use of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex, age, geography, income, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, and further encourages international cooperation, including through technical and financial support, to strengthen the capacity of national statistical authorities and bureaux;

17. *Further encourages* existing arrangements and the further promotion of international, regional, subregional and interregional joint multi-stakeholder research and development projects, as well as training programmes and university-to-

university collaborations where feasible, by mobilizing scientific and research development resources, facilities and equipment;

18. *Emphasizes* that science, technology and innovation are critical for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and that many developing countries are facing serious challenges in building their national science, technology and innovation base;

19. *Encourages* Member States to explore ways and means of conducting national, regional and international technology assessment and foresight exercises on existing, new and emerging technologies to help to evaluate their development potential and mitigate potential negative effects and risk;

20. *Underscores* the potential societal impact, including the opportunities and challenges, presented by rapid technological change, including biotechnology, automation technology, robotics and artificial intelligence, acknowledges their potential to transform the labour market, and in this respect emphasizes the need to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all;

21. *Encourages* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to promote, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development;

22. *Also encourages* the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to discuss and explore innovative financing models, such as impact investment, as a means of attracting new stakeholders, innovators and sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in collaboration with other organizations, where appropriate;

23. *Encourages* Governments, individually and collectively, to support policies that increase financial inclusion and deepen the sources of financing and direct investments towards innovations that address the Sustainable Development Goals;

24. *Calls upon* Member States and the United Nations development system, and encourages other stakeholders, as appropriate, to continue to initiate, implement and support measures to improve the level of participation of scientists and engineers from developing countries in international collaborative research, science, technology and innovation projects;

25. *Also calls upon* Member States and the United Nations development system, and encourages other stakeholders, as appropriate, to continue to strengthen their support for the different science, technology and innovation partnerships with developing countries in primary, secondary and higher education, vocational education and continuing education, business opportunities for the private sector, science, technology and innovation infrastructure and science, technology and innovation advice for developing countries;

26. *Welcomes* the launch of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, and in this regard also welcomes the convening of the first and second annual multi-stakeholder forums on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 6 and 7 June 2016 and on 15 and 16 May 2017, as well as the mapping exercise carried out by the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, and calls for voluntary contributions for resources to support the full operationalization of all components of the Mechanism;

27. *Encourages* the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals to further refine

and update its mapping of science, technology and innovation activities in the United Nations system to:

(a) Guide further efforts at collaboration and capacity-building;

(b) Formulate coherent advice for Member States on aligning national science, technology and innovation frameworks with the 2030 Agenda;

28. *Encourages* the United Nations system to take an active role in forging a closer link with national science advisory bodies to optimally leverage science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals;

29. *Calls upon* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, at the request of national Governments, to support, as appropriate, technical and scientific cooperation and North-South, South-South, triangular, regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology, innovation and knowledge-sharing, on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, including the Technology Facilitation Mechanism;

30. *Reiterates its call for* continued collaboration between United Nations entities and other international organizations, civil society and the private sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, with a view to putting the potential of information and communications technologies at the service of development through policy research on the digital divide and on new challenges of the information society, as well as technical assistance activities, involving multi-stakeholder partnerships;

31. *Proclaims* the year beginning on 1 January 2019 the International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements to enhance global awareness of, and to increase education in, the basic sciences, with special attention to the countries of the developing world, to improving the quality of everyday life and, inter alia, for future advances in research and development, and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to serve as the lead agency for the International Year, in collaboration with other relevant agencies, within existing resources;

32. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and recommendations for future follow-up, including lessons learned in integrating science, technology and innovation policies into national development strategies as well as in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", a sub-item entitled "Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development".

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/229

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 January 2018

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 21 (c)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/422/Add.3)*]

72/229. Culture and sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 41/187 of 8 December 1986, 46/158 of 19 December 1991, 51/179 of 16 December 1996, 52/197 of 18 December 1997, 53/184 of 15 December 1998, 55/192 of 20 December 2000, 57/249 of 20 December 2002, 65/166 of 20 December 2010 and 66/208 of 22 December 2011 concerning culture and development, 66/288 of 27 July 2012, entitled "The future we want", and 68/223 of 20 December 2013, 69/230 of 19 December 2014 and 70/214 of 22 December 2015 on culture and sustainable development,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Welcoming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,[1]

[1] Resolution 71/256, annex.

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Welcoming also the Paris Agreement[2] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[3] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling that, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, the natural and cultural diversity of the world is acknowledged and it is recognized that cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development,

Recalling also the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions,[4] as well as other international conventions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization that acknowledge cultural diversity and economic and social development,[5]

Recognizing that culture is an essential component of human development, that it represents a source of identity, innovation and creativity for the individual and the community and that it is an important factor in social inclusion and poverty eradication, providing for sustainable economic growth and ownership of development processes,

Recognizing also the importance of respect and understanding for cultural diversity throughout the world and of working together and not against each other and of fostering intercultural understanding and dialogue, mutual listening and learning and an ethic of global citizenship and solidarity,

Recalling its resolution 70/76 of 9 December 2015 on the return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin, aware of the importance attached to the return of cultural property that is of fundamental spiritual, historical and cultural value, and expressing deep concern about the continuing illicit traffic in cultural property and its damage to the cultural heritage of nations,

Recalling also the principles of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[6] and acknowledging that cultural diversity is a source of enrichment for humankind and an important contribution to the sustainable development of local communities, peoples

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[2] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[4] Ibid., vol. 2440, No. 43977.

[5] Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, of 1954 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 249, No. 3511); Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, of 1970 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 823, No. 11806); Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, of 1972 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1037, No. 15511); Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, of 2001 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2562, No. 45694); and Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, of 2003 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2368, No. 42671).

[6] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October–3 November 2001*, vol. 1 and corrigendum, *Resolutions*, sect. V, resolution 25, annex I.

and nations, empowering them to play an active and unique role in development initiatives,

Recognizing the importance of multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving the diversity of languages and cultures globally and that genuine multilingualism promotes unity in diversity and international understanding, and recognizing also the importance for the peoples of the world to communicate in their own language,

Recalling the concerns expressed in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[7] on the underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions in the area of culture, which has prevented women from having a significant impact in the area of culture and development,

Recalling also the importance of the promotion of national cultures, artistic creation in all its forms and international and regional cultural cooperation, and reaffirming in this regard the relevance of strengthening national efforts and regional and international cooperation mechanisms for cultural action and artistic creation and recognizing respect for cultural pluralism, as defined by the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, as policies for the inclusion and participation of all citizens that guarantee social cohesion and the vitality of civil society and peace, enhance cultural development and contribute to sustainable development,

Recognizing the linkages between cultural and biological diversity and the positive contribution of local and indigenous traditional knowledge in addressing environmental challenges in a sustainable manner,

Recalling the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,[8] and acknowledging that, in many regions, forests have important cultural and spiritual value,

Taking note of the declaration adopted in Florence, Italy, on 4 October 2014, at the third United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries, the Hangzhou outcomes, adopted at the conference on the theme "Culture for sustainable cities", held in Hangzhou, China, from 10 to 12 December 2015, the Bali Declaration, adopted at the second World Culture Forum, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 10 to 14 October 2016, the global report on culture for sustainable urban development of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, entitled *Culture: Urban Future*, of October 2016, which placed culture at the heart of an integrated, place-based and innovative approach to working towards inclusive, people-centred and culturally sensitive urban development, and the new strategy for the integration of culture and creativity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted at the eleventh annual meeting of the Creative Cities Network, held in Enghien-les-Bains, France, from 30 June to 2 July 2017,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

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[7] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[8] See resolution 71/285.

Taking note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,[9]

1. *Reaffirms* the role of culture as an enabler of sustainable development that provides people and communities with a strong sense of identity and social cohesion and contributes to more effective and sustainable development policies and measures at all levels, and stresses in this regard that policies responsive to cultural contexts can yield better, sustainable, inclusive and equitable development outcomes;

2. *Recognizes* the potential of culture as a driver of sustainable development, which contributes to a strong and viable economic sector by generating income, creating decent jobs and addressing both the economic and social dimensions of poverty through cultural heritage and cultural and creative industries, while providing innovative and effective solutions to cross-cutting issues, such as education, health, gender equality and the environment;

3. *Emphasizes* the important contribution of culture to the three dimensions of sustainable development and to the achievement of national development objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, and in this regard acknowledges:

(a) That culture contributes to inclusive economic development, as cultural heritage, cultural and creative industries, sustainable cultural tourism and cultural infrastructure are sources of income generation and job creation, including at the community level, thus improving living conditions and fostering community-based economic growth, and contribute to empowering individuals;

(b) That culture contributes to inclusive social development for all, including local communities and indigenous peoples, with respect for cultural diversity, safeguarding of the cultural and natural heritage, fostering of cultural institutions and strengthening of cultural and creative industries;

(c) That culture contributes to environmental sustainability, since the protection of cultural and biological diversity and the natural heritage is crucial to sustainable development, while supporting traditional systems of environmental protection, and resource management can contribute to the increased sustainability of fragile ecosystems and the preservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, reducing land degradation and mitigating the effects of climate change;

4. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

5. *Reaffirms* that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security and that peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development, and acknowledges that culture can contribute to sustainable development by constituting a valuable resource for empowering communities to participate fully in social and cultural life, facilitating inclusive governance and dialogue at the national, regional and international levels and contributing to conflict prevention and resolution, as well as to reconciliation and recovery;

6. *Reaffirms its commitment* to embracing diversity in cities and human settlements, to strengthening social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, gender equality, innovation, entrepreneurship, inclusion, identity and safety, and the dignity of all people, as well as to fostering liveability and a vibrant urban economy and to taking steps to ensure that local institutions promote

[9] A/72/336.

pluralism and peaceful coexistence within increasingly heterogeneous and multicultural societies;

7. *Recognizes* that culture should be taken into account in the promotion and implementation of new sustainable consumption and production patterns that contribute to the responsible use of resources and address the adverse impacts of climate change;

8. *Acknowledges* that quality education is enriched by culture, which transmits shared values, knowledge and skills;

9. *Welcomes* the inclusion in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[10] of several targets reflecting the contribution of culture to sustainable development, recalls that the Sustainable Development Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, and in this regard looks forward to their achievement, building on the positive results and impact of programmes utilizing culture as an enabler of sustainable development;

10. *Decides* to give consideration, as appropriate, to the contribution of culture to sustainable development in the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

11. *Invites* all countries, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders:

(a) To raise public awareness of the importance of cultural diversity for sustainable development, promoting its positive value through education and media tools;

(b) To ensure a more visible and effective integration and mainstreaming of culture into economic, social and environmental development policies and strategies at all levels;

(c) To ensure that women and men can equally access, participate in and contribute to cultural life and decision-making, and to further commit themselves to the development of cultural policies and programmes with a gender perspective at the local, national and international levels in order to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

(d) To promote capacity-building, where appropriate, at all levels for the development of a dynamic cultural and creative sector, in particular by encouraging creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship, supporting the development of cultural institutions and cultural industries, providing technical and vocational training for culture professionals and increasing employment opportunities in the cultural and creative sector for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and development;

(e) To actively support the emergence of local markets for cultural goods and services and to facilitate the effective and licit access of such goods and services to international markets, taking into account the expanding range of cultural production and consumption and, for States parties thereto, the provisions of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;[4]

(f) To preserve and maintain local and indigenous traditional knowledge and community practices of environmental management, which are valuable examples of culture as a vehicle for sustainable development, and to foster synergies between

[10] Resolution 70/1

modern science and technology and local and indigenous knowledge, practices and innovation;

(g) To promote global awareness of the linkages between cultural and biological diversity, including through the protection and encouragement of the customary use of biological resources, in accordance with traditional cultural practices, as a key element of a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

(h) To support national legal frameworks and policies for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage and cultural property, encouraging initiatives to fight against illicit trafficking in cultural property and the return of cultural property, in accordance with national legislation and applicable international legal frameworks, including by promoting international cooperation to prevent the misappropriation of cultural heritage and products, recognizing the importance of intellectual property rights in sustaining those involved in cultural creativity;

(i) To note that, in achieving these objectives, innovative mechanisms of financing can make a positive contribution in assisting developing countries in mobilizing additional resources for development on a stable, predictable and voluntary basis, and to reiterate that such voluntary mechanisms should be effective, should aim to mobilize resources that are stable and predictable, should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of financing, should be disbursed in accordance with the priorities of developing countries and should not unduly burden such countries;

(j) To mobilize culture as a vehicle to foster tolerance, mutual understanding, peace and reconciliation in the context of conflict-prevention, conflict-resolution and peacebuilding processes;

12. *Expresses deep concern* that cultural property, including religious sites and objects, is increasingly targeted by terrorist attacks, often resulting in its damage, theft or complete destruction, and condemns such attacks;

13. *Encourages* all countries, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to enhance international cooperation in supporting the efforts of developing countries towards the development, strengthening and consolidation of cultural industries, cultural tourism and culture-related microenterprises and to assist those countries in developing the necessary infrastructure and skills, as well as in mastering information and communications technologies and in gaining access to new technologies on mutually agreed terms;

14. *Encourages* initiatives to foster cultural cooperation agreements and networks at the regional level for knowledge- and information-sharing for sustainable development;

15. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to continue to provide support, to facilitate financing and to assist Member States, upon their request, in developing their national capacities to optimize the contribution of culture to sustainable development, including through information-sharing, the exchange of best practices, data collection, research and study and the use of appropriate evaluation indicators, as well as to implement applicable international cultural conventions, taking into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

16. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant United Nations bodies to continue to assess, in consultation with Member States, the contribution of culture to the achievement of sustainable development through the compilation of quantitative data, including

indicators and statistics, with a view to informing development policies and relevant reports, where appropriate;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that United Nations country teams continue to further integrate and mainstream culture into their programming exercises, in particular United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, in consultation with relevant national authorities, when assisting countries in the pursuit of their development objectives;

18. *Encourages* all countries, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to give due consideration to the contribution of culture to the achievement of sustainable development in the formulation of national, regional and international development policies and international cooperation instruments, and in this regard invites the President of the General Assembly to host a one-day high-level event on this subject, within existing resources, during the seventy-third session of the Assembly, and to invite the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to support him or her, within its existing mandates;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", the sub-item entitled "Culture and sustainable development".

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/230

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 January 2018

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 21 (d)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/422/Add.4)*]

72/230. Development cooperation with middle-income countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[1] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] that have not yet done so to deposit their

[1] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

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instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Welcoming also the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,[3]

Recalling its resolution 70/215 of 22 December 2015,

Recalling also that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes, inter alia, that middle-income countries still face significant challenges to achieve sustainable development and that, in order to ensure that achievements made to date are sustained, efforts to address ongoing challenges should be strengthened through the exchange of experiences, improved coordination and better and focused support of the United Nations development system, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders,

Reaffirming its resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which it recognized that middle-income countries still face specific challenges,

Taking note of the outcomes of the international conferences on development cooperation with middle-income countries held over the past 10 years in Madrid,[4] San Salvador,[5] Windhoek[6] and San José,[7] and noting the regional conferences held in Cairo, in 2008, in Amman, in 2013, and in Minsk, in 2013 and 2015,

Emphasizing that cohesive, nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks, will be at the heart of efforts by Member States, reiterating that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, highlighting the need to respect each country's policy space and leadership in the implementation of policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development while remaining consistent with relevant international rules and commitments, recognizing that national development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, including coherent and mutually supporting world trade, monetary and financial systems and strengthened and enhanced global economic governance, and highlighting the fact that processes to develop and facilitate the availability of appropriate knowledge and technologies globally, as well as capacity-building, are also critical, including pursuing policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors and reinvigorating the global partnership for sustainable development and for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Reaffirming that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of programme countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities are carried out for the benefit of programme countries, at their request and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

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[3] Resolution 71/256, annex.

[4] See A/62/71-E/2007/46, annex.

[5] See A/62/483-E/2007/90, annex.

[6] See A/C.2/63/3, annexes I and II.

[7] See A/C.2/68/5.

Recalling that the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States deserve special attention, as do countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries, and that there are also serious challenges within many middle-income countries,

Recognizing that there is no "one size fits all" approach to development and that development assistance by the United Nations development system should respond to the varying development needs of programme countries, including those of middle-income countries, in a manner that addresses their specific challenges while mindful of their diversity, and should be aligned with their national development plans, strategies and circumstances in accordance with its mandates, keeping in mind the needs of the least developed countries,

Noting that national averages based on criteria such as per capita income do not always reflect the actual particularities and development needs of middle-income countries and that, despite notable progress in reducing poverty levels in both absolute and relative terms, poverty remains a problem in many middle-income countries as they are still home to 73 per cent of the world's people living in poverty,

Recognizing that inequality, or even a rise in inequality, remains pervasive in middle-income countries, even in those with high levels of economic growth, that further investment in social services and economic opportunities are needed in order to reduce inequalities and that economic growth needs to be sustained, inclusive and equitable,

Stressing that middle-income countries continue to face particular challenges related to, inter alia, job creation, the diversification and transformation of their economies and access to international markets and, in this regard, that efforts to create a national enabling environment for development should be complemented by a global enabling environment,

Recognizing that connectivity through quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all, contributes to the sustainable development of middle-income countries,

Recalling that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, are central to our common pursuit of sustainable development, including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling also the resolve of Member States to enhance and strengthen domestic resource mobilization and fiscal space, including, where appropriate, through modernized tax systems, more efficient tax collection, the broadening of the tax base and the effective combating of tax evasion and capital flight, and reiterating that, while each country is responsible for its tax system, it is important to support national efforts in these areas by strengthening technical assistance and enhancing international cooperation and participation in addressing international tax matters,

Recalling further the importance of international support, in various forms, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, that is well aligned with national priorities to contribute to addressing the development needs of middle-income countries, including through capacity-building,

Recognizing the need to better understand the multidimensional nature of development and poverty, and acknowledging the significant role that the United Nations system has played and should continue to play in this regard,

Expressing concern that climate change is adversely affecting productivity in every country, in particular developing countries, including middle-income countries,

as extreme weather shocks directly affect productivity through the destruction of infrastructure and labour force displacement, and that a number of middle-income countries have sizeable sectors that are exposed to climate change, such as agriculture, construction, mining, tourism and transport,

Reaffirming that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls, and the full realization of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, and in that regard reiterating the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies,

Noting with concern that the ratio of public debt to gross domestic product for middle-income countries increased from around 48 per cent in 2015 to 50 per cent in 2016,

Recognizing that the remaining effects of the world financial and economic crisis have the potential to undermine progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and threaten debt sustainability in many countries, especially developing countries,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[8]

2. *Acknowledges* the efforts made and successes achieved by many middle-income countries in eradicating poverty and achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as their significant contribution to global and regional development and economic stability;

3. *Also acknowledges* that identifying structural gaps can improve the understanding of development needs of developing countries, including middle-income countries;

4. *Underlines* the need for sustained efforts towards achieving debt sustainability in middle-income countries in order to avoid a debt crisis;

5. *Recognizes* that, with 73 per cent of the world's poor population concentrated in middle-income countries, cooperation with those countries can contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Welcomes* the solidarity of middle-income countries with other developing countries, in particular the financial, technical, technology transfer and capacity-building support being provided by middle-income countries, particularly to the least developed countries, through South-South and triangular cooperation, while stressing that South-South cooperation is a complement to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations development system to continue its ongoing efforts to mainstream support to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation;

[8] A/72/329.

7. *Recalls* that the creation, development and diffusion of new innovations and technologies and associated know-how, including the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, are powerful drivers of economic growth and sustainable development;

8. *Requests* the United Nations development system to ensure that it addresses the diverse development needs of middle-income countries in a coordinated manner through, inter alia, an accurate assessment of the national priorities and needs of these countries, taking into account the use of variables that go beyond per capita income criteria;

9. *Calls upon* the United Nations development system, in line with its resolution 71/243, to continue to support developing countries in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and their development objectives, and requests the development system to address, within existing resources and mandates, the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[9] and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[10] and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to present, as part of his report on the implementation of the present resolution, an assessment of the outcomes of existing strategies within the United Nations development system related to middle-income countries;

10. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to convene, within existing resources, a high-level meeting of the General Assembly at the beginning of its seventy-third session, and no later than December 2018, to discuss the gaps and challenges of middle-income countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and requests the Secretary-General to consider these discussions in the drafting of his report on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of the role of the private sector, as well as of the role of public-private partnerships, in meeting the challenges of sustainable development for middle-income countries and other developing countries;

12. *Welcomes* the launch of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, and in this regard also welcomes the convening of the first and second annual multi-stakeholder forums on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 6 and 7 June 2016 and on 15 and 16 May 2017, as well as the mapping exercise carried out by the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, and calls for voluntary contributions for resources to support the full operationalization of all components of the Mechanism;

13. *Recognizes* the great importance of providing trade-related capacity-building for developing countries, including African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and middle-income countries, including for the promotion of regional economic integration and interconnectivity;

14. *Acknowledges* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger;

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[9] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[10] Resolution 70/1.

15. *Recognizes* that middle-income countries still face significant challenges in achieving sustainable development and that, in order to ensure that achievements made to date are sustained, efforts to address ongoing challenges should be strengthened through the exchange of experiences, improved coordination and better and focused support of the United Nations development system, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders, requests those stakeholders to ensure that the diverse and specific development needs of middle-income countries are appropriately considered and addressed, in a tailored fashion, in their relevant strategies and policies, with a view to promoting a coherent and comprehensive approach towards individual countries, and acknowledges that official development assistance and other forms of concessional financing are still important for a number of these countries and have a role to play in achieving targeted results, taking into account the specific needs of these countries;

16. *Notes with concern* that access to concessional finance is reduced as countries' incomes grow and that countries may not be able to access sufficient affordable financing from other sources to meet their needs, encourages shareholders in multilateral development banks to develop graduation policies that are sequenced, phased and gradual, and encourages multilateral development banks to explore ways to ensure that their assistance best addresses the opportunities and challenges presented by the diverse circumstances of middle-income countries;

17. *Recognizes* that Governments will have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review at the national, regional and global levels in relation to the progress made in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and that quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind, and in this regard reiterates the commitment to intensify efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries, including middle-income countries;

18. *Recalls* paragraph 11 of its resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, and stresses that the concerns and specific challenges of middle-income countries should be given consideration, as appropriate, in the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

19. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-fourth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an update on the ongoing efforts by the United Nations system, in consultation with the international financial institutions, regarding the development of measurements that recognize poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as well as an assessment of the importance of tailoring support to middle-income countries, and decides to include, under the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence", the sub-item entitled "Development cooperation with middle-income countries" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/231

General Assembly

Distr.: General
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Seventy-second session
Agenda item 22 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/423/Add.1)*]

72/231. Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[2] adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action,

Recalling also the Political Declaration adopted by the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/294 of 25 July 2016, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Declaration,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Reaffirming also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty,

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

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is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming further its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[3] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[4] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Welcoming also the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,

Recalling its resolution 71/238 of 21 December 2016 on the follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/28 of 25 July 2017 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Recalling further its resolution 67/221 of 21 December 2012 on the smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020[5] and on crisis mitigation and resilience-building for the least developed countries,[6] as well as the report of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, entitled "State of the Least Developed Countries, 2017";[7]

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further strengthen the global partnership for development for the least developed countries in all priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action[2] in order to ensure the timely, effective and full implementation of the Programme of Action during the remainder of the decade, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[8] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[9] which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

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[3] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[5] A/72/83-E/2017/60.

[6] A/72/270.

[7] Available from: unohrlls.org/custom-content/uploads/2017/07/State-of-the-LDCs_2017.pdf.

[8] Resolution 70/1.

[9] Resolution 69/313, annex.

Change,[1] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[10] and the New Urban Agenda;[11]

3. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence, in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

4. *Recalls* the decision contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on the least developed countries, underlines the importance of strong synergy in the implementation of the recently adopted agendas and the Istanbul Programme of Action at all levels, and encourages coordination and coherence in the follow-up of their implementation;

5. *Notes with appreciation* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda incorporate a number of key development challenges and priorities for the least developed countries;

6. *Reaffirms* the lessons learned in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the recommendations contained in the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020;[12]

7. *Recalls* the objectives of the Istanbul Programme of Action of enhancing good governance at all levels by strengthening democratic processes, institutions and the rule of law; increasing efficiency, coherence, transparency and participation; protecting and promoting human rights; and reducing corruption and strengthening the capacity of the Governments of the least developed countries to play an effective role in their economic and social development;

8. *Reaffirms* that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced global support to overcome the structural challenges they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in this regard calls upon the international community to prioritize and strengthen support from all sources to facilitate the coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up to and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in the least developed countries;

9. *Recognizes* that significant additional domestic public resources, including at the subnational level, supplemented by international assistance, as appropriate, will be critical for the realization of sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda acknowledge the centrality of domestic resource mobilization, underscored by the principle of national ownership;

10. *Also recognizes* that, while the least developed countries have made considerable efforts to mobilize domestic resources and attract private investment, further progress is needed;

11. *Encourages* the least developed countries, in accordance with their national plans and priorities, and with the full support of their development partners, to develop their capacities to track financial transactions, administer taxation and

[10] Resolution 69/283, annex II.
[11] Resolution 71/256, annex.
[12] Resolution 70/294, annex.

regulate customs and to redouble their efforts to substantially reduce illicit financial flows by 2030, with a view to eventually eliminating them, including by combating tax evasion and corruption through strengthened national regulation, and also encourages the United Nations and other relevant international bodies to help to support these efforts, in accordance with their respective mandates;

12. *Recognizes* that private business activity, investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation, and that private international capital flows, in particular foreign direct investment, along with a stable international financial system, are vital complements to national development efforts;

13. *Expresses its concern* that foreign direct investment flows to the least developed countries contracted by 13 per cent, to $38 billion, in 2016 compared to 2015, with continued concentration on extractive and related industries, and underlines the need to take the measures necessary at all levels to further accelerate foreign direct investment in the least developed countries;

14. *Also expresses its concern* that, while the least developed countries are in need of global support, bilateral official development assistance (ODA) to the least developed countries declined by 3.9 per cent in 2016 compared to 2015, according to preliminary numbers, and underlines the urgent need to reverse the decline, while expressing its appreciation to those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitments to 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) for ODA to developing targets and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries, urges all others to step up efforts to increase their ODA and to make additional concrete efforts towards the ODA targets, reiterates that the fulfilment of all ODA commitments remains crucial, calls upon ODA providers to fulfil their respective ODA commitments to the least developed countries, and encourages ODA providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.2 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries, while reiterating that an important use of international public finance, including ODA, is to catalyse additional resource mobilization from other sources, public and private;

15. *Encouraged* by those who are allocating at least 50 per cent of their official development assistance to the least developed countries;

16. *Welcomes* continued efforts to improve the quality, impact and effectiveness of development cooperation and other international efforts in public finance, including adherence to agreed development cooperation effectiveness principles;

17. *Reiterates* that an important use of international public finance, including official development assistance, is to catalyse additional resource mobilization from other sources, public and private;

18. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to but not a substitute for North-South cooperation;

19. *Expresses its concern* that, in 2015, merchandise exports of the least developed countries contracted by 25 per cent, a significantly larger drop than in 2014, and further declined by 6 per cent in 2016, resulting in a considerable decline in their share of world merchandise exports, which stood at 0.94 per cent in 2016, and calls upon the least developed countries and their development partners to take the

measures necessary to reverse this trend, with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020;[13]

20. *Recognizes* that the least developed countries face significant infrastructure gaps, including in the areas of transport, energy, and information and communications technology, and reaffirms the need to promote quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure and to enhance infrastructure connectivity with concrete actions, maximizing synergies in infrastructure planning and development;

21. *Also recognizes* the significant potential of regional economic integration and interconnectivity to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development in the least developed countries, and stresses the need to strengthen regional cooperation and regional trade agreements to improve connectivity and competitiveness, increase productivity, lower transaction costs and expand markets;

22. *Stresses* the need for the international community to remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of the least developed countries and to continue to take effective measures, preferably within existing frameworks, when applicable, to address the debt problem of those countries, including through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief, debt restructuring and sound debt management, as appropriate, for the multilateral and bilateral debt owed by the least developed countries to creditors, both public and private, reiterates its commitment to work through existing initiatives, such as the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, and reaffirms the importance of transparency in debt management;

23. *Recognizes* that maintaining sustainable debt levels is the responsibility of the borrowing countries, while acknowledging that lenders also have a responsibility to lend in such a way that does not undermine a country's debt sustainability, recalls the need to strengthen information-sharing and transparency to make sure that debt sustainability assessments are based on comprehensive, objective and reliable data, and encourages Member States to work towards global consensus on guidelines for debtor and creditor responsibilities in borrowing by and lending to sovereigns, building on existing initiatives;

24. *Also recognizes* the importance of developing domestic capital markets in the least developed countries, which can help channel the growing pool of domestic savings towards productive investments, reaffirms the commitment to enhance international support in developing domestic capital markets in developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries, and also reaffirms its commitment to work to strengthen capacity-building in this area, including through regional, interregional and global forums for knowledge-sharing, technical assistance and data-sharing;

25. *Further recognizes* the significant potential of multilateral development banks and other international development banks in financing sustainable development and providing know-how to the least developed countries;

26. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as the Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to retain the issue of investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries in the agenda of the Board, with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of the support provided by the United Nations system to increase the flow of foreign direct investment to the least developed countries and the ability of those countries to attract such investment, and takes note of the coordinated efforts of the United Nations system in this regard;[14]

[13] See resolution 70/1.

[14] See CEB/2017/4, para. 44.

27. *Welcomes* the establishment and operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, takes note with appreciation of the contributions that Turkey has made and of the pledges that other countries have made, invites Member States, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide financial and technical assistance to the Technology Bank to ensure its effective operation;

28. *Expresses its deep concern* that, owing to significant capacity constraints, the least developed countries are disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, salinity intrusion, glacier lake outburst floods, ocean acidification and the rise in frequency, as well as the impact, of natural and man-made disasters, which further threaten food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and expresses its concern that women and girls are often disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change and other environmental issues;

29. *Recognizes* the synergies between the implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, acknowledges the importance of continued support for and international cooperation on adaptation and mitigation efforts and on strengthening resilience, stresses the necessity of adequate and predictable financial resources from a variety of sources, including public and private ones, highlights the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, recognizes that effective disaster risk management contributes to sustainable development, and in this regard underlines the importance of strengthening disaster risk reduction and early warning systems in order to minimize the consequences of disasters;

30. *Reaffirms* that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls and the full realization of the human rights of all people are essential to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, and reiterates the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies in the least developed countries;

31. *Recognizes* that particular efforts are needed to ensure that all young people, including girls, enjoy access to lifelong learning opportunities and equal access to quality education at all levels, inclusive of early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary education, as well as technical and vocational training, notes with concern, in this regard, the lack of progress in closing gender gaps in access to, retention in and completion of secondary education, and recognizes the need to continue to provide and encourage, as appropriate, institutes of higher education to allocate places and scholarships for students and trainees from the least developed countries, in particular in the fields of science, technology, business management and economics;

32. *Also recognizes* that furthering participation, empowering civil society, youth and women and strengthening collective action will contribute to the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development;

33. *Reiterates* that more effective representation of the least developed countries in decision-making at the global level could improve the international environment for their development, and also reiterates that the international economic system and architecture should be inclusive and responsive to the special development needs of the least developed countries, ensuring their effective participation, voice and representation at all levels;

34. *Underlines* the need to reduce the vulnerability of the least developed countries to economic, natural and environmental shocks and disasters, as well as climate change, and to enhance their ability to meet these and other challenges by strengthening their resilience, and in this regard stresses that it is important that all countries and other actors work together to further develop and implement concrete measures, on an urgent basis, at the national and international levels so as to build the resilience of the least developed countries to withstand economic shocks and mitigate their adverse effects, to withstand and overcome the adverse effects of climate change, to enhance sustainable growth and protect biodiversity and to withstand natural hazards in order to reduce the risk of disasters, as agreed upon in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

35. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on crisis mitigation and resilience-building for the least developed countries, including its finding that the multilateral risk reduction strategies and mechanisms have proven insufficient for the least developed countries, and in this regard, in order to address these issues, underlines the importance of improving the coordination and effectiveness of resilience-building initiatives for the least developed countries by leveraging existing measures at the national, regional and global levels to respond to various types of disasters and shocks, as elaborated in the report of the Secretary-General;

36. *Congratulates* those countries that have graduated from least developed country status, notes with appreciation that several least developed countries have expressed their intention to reach the status of graduation by 2020, invites those countries to start the preparations for their graduation and transition strategy, and requests all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, led by the Office of the High Representative, to extend necessary support in this regard, in a coordinated manner;

37. *Reiterates* its recommendation that the consultative mechanism specified in its resolution 59/209 of 20 December 2004 be established by the graduating country, in cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners, to facilitate the preparation of the transition strategy and the identification of the associated actions and the negotiation of their duration and phasing-out for a period appropriate to the development situation of the country, and that it be integrated into other relevant consultative processes and initiatives between the graduating country and its development partners;

38. *Invites* development partners to make available timely information about country-specific support measures and related smooth transition measures for the least developed countries in the areas of financial support, technical assistance and trade-related measures, including their time frames, characteristics and modalities;

39. *Acknowledges* that the graduation of a country symbolizes its considerable long-term socioeconomic progress, prevailing over the structural handicaps to socioeconomic development, and that it also presents many challenges for graduated countries, which continue to face vulnerabilities to various shocks and crises;

40. *Requests* the Secretary-General to elaborate in his report to the General Assembly on the implementation, effectiveness and added value of smooth transition measures, as requested in its resolution 70/216 of 22 December 2015, covering both graduating and recently graduated countries, including ways that graduated countries can be supported on their development path;

41. *Invites* development partners to consider the least developed country indicators, namely gross national income per capita, the human assets index and the economic vulnerability index, as part of their criteria for allocating official development assistance;

42. *Recognizes* that the activities relating to the least developed countries carried out within the Secretariat need to be further coordinated and consolidated in order to ensure the effective monitoring and follow-up of the Istanbul Programme of Action, led by the Office of the High Representative, and to provide well-coordinated support to realizing the goal of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

43. *Takes note* of the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for the least developed countries, led by the Office of the High Representative, notes the steps taken by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the High-level Committee on Programmes in supporting the coordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action on a system-wide basis, and reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to include the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in the agenda of the Board;

44. *Underlines* the need to give particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

45. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to include, as appropriate, the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields in order to support the implementation of the goals set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

46. *Strongly encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the trust fund in support of activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the high-level political forum on sustainable development of the Economic and Social Council as well as in other relevant forums, and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the trust fund;

47. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and the Istanbul Programme of Action, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries", unless otherwise agreed.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017

United Nations A/RES/72/232

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 January 2018

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 22 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/423/Add.2)*]

72/232. Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014,[1] at which all relevant stakeholders expressed their commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action of addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus contributing to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty,

Recalling its resolutions 70/197 of 22 December 2015 and 71/239 of 21 December 2016,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to

[1] Resolution 69/137, annexes I and II.

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building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, entitled "The future we want",[2]

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[3] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[4] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recalling also the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[5] while recognizing that landlocked developing countries face some specific disaster risk challenges, and reiterating the commitment to addressing disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Welcoming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,

Taking note of the launch of the World Customs Organization transit guidelines at the Global Transit Conference held in Brussels in July 2017,

Welcoming the holding of the 2017 Global Infrastructure Forum, in Washington, D.C., on 22 April 2017, on the theme "Delivering inclusive and sustainable infrastructure", and taking note of its outcome,

Recognizing the specific needs and special circumstances of developing country parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, as provided for in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recognizing also that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs and risks, continues to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and the domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affects their overall growth and socioeconomic development,

Recalling the Almaty Declaration[6] and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit

[2] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[3] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[5] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

[6] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.

Developing Countries,[7] the first programme of action for the landlocked developing countries,

Acknowledging the importance of promoting collaboration between landlocked developing countries and transit countries on the basis of common interest, and noting that collaboration efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national priorities, while remaining consistent with international rules and commitments,

Recognizing the need to promote both public and private investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies, and the special vulnerabilities and needs of landlocked developing countries,

Acknowledging the need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries and the importance of enhancing existing transport infrastructure facilities for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action,

Reaffirming that achieving food security and improving nutrition, ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all, achieving inclusive and equitable quality education, achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, as well as ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, are important for achieving sustainable development, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Taking note of the declaration of the annual ministerial meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries held at United Nations Headquarters on 20 September 2017 on the theme "Accelerating the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Welcoming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,[8]

Recognizing that the Vienna Programme of Action, which is integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is based on renewed and strengthened partnerships for accompanying landlocked developing countries in harnessing benefits from international trade, structurally transforming their economies and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth,

Taking note of the Livingstone Call for Action for the Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, adopted at the high-level follow-up meeting to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Livingstone, Zambia, in June 2015,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024;[9]

2. *Welcomes* the recognition of the special needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[10] and in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[11] and affirms that the effective implementation of those

[7] Ibid., annex I.
[8] Resolution 71/312, annex.
[9] A/72/272.
[10] Resolution 70/1.
[11] Resolution 69/313, annex.

outcomes, together with the six priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,[12] can drive the social and economic progress of landlocked developing countries and assist in their transformation from landlocked to land-linked countries;

3. *Recalls* paragraph 11 of its resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, and stresses that the concerns and specific challenges of landlocked developing countries should be given consideration, as appropriate, in the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries face specific challenges in their efforts towards the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and the pursuit of sustainable development, and in this regard underscores the importance of continued international support to complement the efforts of landlocked developing countries;

5. *Also recognizes* that efforts will need to be scaled up and sustained in order to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 in landlocked developing countries;

6. *Invites* the landlocked developing countries, transit countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement at all levels the relevant actions that have been agreed upon in the Vienna Programme of Action in its six priority areas in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

7. *Reiterates its invitation* to development partners to provide targeted technical and financial support, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the Vienna Programme of Action;

8. *Invites* Member States that have not yet done so to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation;

9. *Encourages* landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so to mainstream the 2030 Agenda into their national development planning and foster coherence in its implementation with the Vienna Programme of Action;

10. *Stresses* that the harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules and documentation should be promoted, including the full and effective implementation of international conventions on transport and transit and bilateral, subregional and regional agreements, stresses also that cooperation on fundamental transit policies, laws and regulations between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours is crucial for the effective and integrated solution of cross-border trade and transit transport problems, and underlines that this cooperation should be promoted on the basis of the mutual interests of both landlocked developing countries and transit countries;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries, inter alia, by establishing and promoting efficient transit transport systems, including roads, railroads and inland waterways, that link landlocked developing countries to international markets, reaffirms that the Vienna Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels, and in this regard highlights the need to establish secure, reliable, efficient, high-quality, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including transit transport systems, renewable energy and information and communications technology, with the support of development partners, multilateral financial and development institutions and regional banks;

[12] Resolution 69/137, annex II.

12. *Notes* that, despite the continued growth of air passenger and freight transport, landlocked developing countries are still faced with low volumes of freight transported by air, and stresses that air transport is particularly important, as it provides landlocked developing countries with direct access to international markets;

13. *Invites* landlocked developing countries and transit countries to consider ratifying, as appropriate, relevant international trade and transport facilitation conventions;[13]

14. *Underlines* that infrastructure development plays a key role in reducing the cost of development for landlocked developing countries and that the development and maintenance of transit transport infrastructure, information and communications technology and energy infrastructure are crucial for landlocked developing countries in order to reduce high trading costs, improve their competitiveness and become fully integrated into the global market;

15. *Stresses* that the magnitude of the resources required to invest in infrastructure development and maintenance remains a major challenge and requires the forging of international, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation on infrastructure projects, the allocation of more resources from national budgets, the effective deployment of international development assistance and multilateral financing in the development and maintenance of infrastructure and strengthening of the role of the private sector, and recognizes that both public and private investment have key roles to play in infrastructure financing, including through development banks, development finance institutions and tools and mechanisms such as public-private partnerships, blended finance, which combines concessional public finance, non-concessional private finance and expertise from the public and private sector, special-purpose vehicles, non-recourse project financing, risk mitigation instruments and pooled funding structures;

16. *Calls upon* the landlocked developing countries and transit countries, in a coordinated manner, to develop and upgrade international transport and transit corridors encompassing all modes of transportation, such as inland waterways, roads, rail networks, ports and pipelines, to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries;

17. *Acknowledges* that impediments to private investment in infrastructure exist on both the supply and the demand side and that insufficient investment is due in part to inadequate infrastructure plans and an insufficient number of well-prepared investable projects, along with private sector incentive structures that are not necessarily appropriate for investing in many long-term projects and risk perceptions of investors, encourages landlocked developing countries to embed resilient and quality infrastructure investment plans into their national sustainable development strategies, while also strengthening their domestic enabling environments, and calls upon the international community to provide technical support to landlocked developing countries to translate plans into concrete project pipelines, as well as support for individual implementable projects, including for feasibility studies, the negotiation of complex contracts and project management;

18. *Encourages* multilateral development banks, including regional banks, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to address gaps in trade, transport and transit-

[13] Including the Customs Convention on Containers (Geneva, 2 December 1972), the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (Geneva, 18 May 1956), the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (Geneva, 14 November 1975), the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (Geneva, 21 October 1982) and the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation (2013).

related regional infrastructure, including by completing missing links connecting, inter alia, landlocked developing countries within regional networks, and in this regard notes that, at the 2017 Global Infrastructure Forum, multilateral development banks agreed to deepen their collaboration to encourage private sector investment in infrastructure development by joining forces to co-finance projects and helping to generate interest among private sector investors in public-private partnerships and the development of infrastructure as an asset class for institutional investors;

19. *Invites* the multilateral financial and development institutions to consider how they can best support landlocked developing countries with infrastructure development, including through project financing, planning for operations and maintenance, technical and regulatory advice, and project preparation;

20. *Stresses* the importance of universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services, and also stresses the need for accelerating sustainable energy for all in landlocked developing countries, including through innovative partnerships;

21. *Underlines* that greater integration of landlocked developing countries into world trade and global value chains is vital for increasing their competitiveness and diversification and ensuring their economic development;

22. *Recognizes* that services sectors are important enablers of trade in goods and effective participation in international trade and global value chains, that efficient services sectors enhance productivity, reduce the cost of doing business and promote job creation and that landlocked developing countries should be supported so as to increase the share of services in their economies and exports, including through enabling policies;

23. *Stresses* that improved trade facilitation, including through further streamlining and harmonization of customs and transit procedures and formalities and transparent and efficient border management and coordination of agencies involved in border clearance, would help landlocked developing countries to enhance the competitiveness of their export products and services;

24. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation, calls for its full and timely implementation by all members of the World Trade Organization, calls upon those members that have not yet done so to deposit their instrument of acceptance, where appropriate, as soon as possible, and in this regard urges members to continue to provide and enhance technical and capacity-building assistance, particularly for the effective implementation of the provisions of articles on the release and clearance of goods, border agency cooperation, formalities connected with importation, exportation and transit, freedom of transit and customs cooperation, which are very relevant for landlocked developing countries;

25. *Stresses* the need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries in a broader range of areas than just trade and trade facilitation, including investment, research and development and policies aimed at accelerating regional industrial development and regional connectivity, that this approach is aimed at fostering structural change and economic growth in landlocked developing countries as a goal, and also as a means of collectively linking regions to global markets, that this would enhance competitiveness and help to maximize benefits from globalization and that documentation and the sharing and dissemination of best practices are important to allow cooperating partners to benefit from each other's experience;

26. *Recognizes* that the economies of many landlocked developing countries are still reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition, stresses the need for renewed and strengthened partnerships for development to

support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base and enhancing value addition to their exports by entering and moving up global value chains through the development of their productive capacities, including through private sector involvement, and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of the products of landlocked developing countries in export markets, and welcomes the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

27. *Underlines* that, in order for landlocked developing countries to fully utilize their export and trade potential, it is important to undertake measures, consistent with relevant international rules and obligations, that promote structural economic transformation capable of reducing the negative impact of their geographical disadvantages and external shocks, creating jobs and ultimately leading to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and inclusive and sustainable growth and development, stresses that each landlocked developing country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and in this regard stresses that the national development efforts of landlocked developing countries need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment;

28. *Emphasizes* that infrastructure, industry and innovation are strongly connected, share the common goal of achieving inclusive and sustainable economic development and contribute to poverty eradication, and recognizes that inclusive and sustainable industrialization is integral to the structural transformation of the economies of all countries, including the landlocked developing countries;

29. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries remain highly vulnerable to external economic shocks and to the multiple other challenges faced by the international community;

30. *Also recognizes* that landlocked developing countries are vulnerable to and remain negatively affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, land degradation, desertification, deforestation, floods, including glacial lake outburst floods, and droughts, recognizes the potential benefits of mutually addressing these challenges, and calls upon the international community to continue to support the efforts of landlocked developing countries to address these challenges in an integrated manner, as appropriate;

31. *Further recognizes* that landlocked developing countries are vulnerable to climate change, which is exacerbating desertification and land degradation, and that they remain negatively affected by desertification, land degradation and drought;

32. *Notes* the entry into force of the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries in October 2017, invites the International Think Tank to undertake its role of supporting the development efforts of the landlocked developing countries, urges those landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so to ratify, at their earliest convenience, the Multilateral Agreement, and invites relevant stakeholders to support the International Think Tank;

33. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries and their transit country neighbours need to effectively mobilize adequate domestic and external resources for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, reaffirms that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, including the implementation of the Programme of Action, and also recognizes that international public finance plays an

important role in complementing those efforts, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources;

34. *Underlines* the critical role of the private sector, including through foreign direct investment, in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

35. *Also underlines* the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how, on mutually agreed terms, and non-debt-creating flows of capital, recognizes the considerable role and potential of private sector involvement in infrastructure development for transport, telecommunications and utilities for landlocked developing countries, encourages Member States to facilitate foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries in this regard, and calls upon landlocked and transit developing countries to promote an enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment and private sector involvement;

36. *Reiterates* that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments remains crucial, with providers of official development assistance reaffirming their respective commitments;

37. *Recognizes* the essential role of the private sector in the development of landlocked developing countries, and in this regard underlines the need to continue promoting the participation of the private sector in achieving sustainable development and the critical importance of mobilizing private resources for the development of landlocked developing countries, taking into account the leading role of States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Vienna Programme of Action;

38. *Invites* developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

39. *Invites* development partners to effectively implement the Aid for Trade initiative in assisting landlocked developing countries to address their special needs and requirements, including capacity-building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations and the implementation of trade facilitation measures, as well as the diversification of export products;

40. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and invites international organizations and relevant regional and subregional organizations, to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programmes of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in their implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner;

41. *Underlines* the importance of increasing the availability and use of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex, age, geography, income, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, stresses the need to enhance capacity-building support for developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, for this purpose, and reaffirms the commitment to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data;

42. *Recognizes* that it is important for all countries, including landlocked developing countries, to commit to a world in which all women and girls enjoy full

gender equality with men and boys and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment and equality have been removed;

43. *Reaffirms* its resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations development system, in which it urged the United Nations development system to enhance its support for, inter alia, the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, and calls upon the entities of the United Nations development system to integrate and mainstream it fully into their operational activities for development;

44. *Urges* that coherent and effective linkages be made between the implementation, follow-up and review arrangements for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and those of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including the Vienna Programme of Action;

45. *Underlines* the importance of the successful implementation of, follow-up to and review of the Vienna Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

46. *Stresses* that, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should continue to ensure the coordinated follow-up to, effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels;

47. *Decides* to convene, as called for in paragraph 78 of the Vienna Programme of Action, a comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for the Decade 2014–2024, to be held no later than December 2019, that the Office of the High Representative shall coordinate the preparatory process, that all relevant United Nations system organizations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and other relevant organizations, within their respective mandates and within existing resources, shall be invited to provide support to the review process, that the high-level midterm review shall be preceded by regional preparatory meetings, as appropriate and within existing resources, and that the high-level midterm review shall adopt an intergovernmentally negotiated and agreed outcome in the form of a political declaration, also decides that the midterm review and its preparation shall be conducted within existing resources and that all costs relating to the midterm review and its preparation shall be financed through voluntary contributions, and further decides to consider the modalities of the review before the end of its seventy-second session;

48. *Also decides* that the comprehensive high-level midterm review shall review progress made by the landlocked developing countries, transit countries and development partners in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and shall be a forum to share best practices and lessons learned, identify obstacles and constraints encountered and actions and initiatives needed to overcome them, as well as new challenges and emerging issues, in order to further accelerate the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

49. *Strongly encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the trust fund in support of activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to support the implementation of,

follow-up to and monitoring of the Vienna Programme of Action, including the preparations for and organization of the high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

50. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries", unless otherwise agreed.

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[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/424/Add.1)*]

72/233. Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 71/241 of 21 December 2016 and all other resolutions related to the eradication of poverty,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[1] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] that have not yet done so to deposit their

[1] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.
[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

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instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Welcoming also the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,[3]

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome[4] and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[5]

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit,[6] as well as the international commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger,

Taking note of the ongoing efforts to implement the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted in May 2011 at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,[7] the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, adopted in September 2014 at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States,[8] and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, adopted in November 2014 at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries,[9] and recognizing that many middle-income countries still face significant challenges in achieving sustainable development and the need for, inter alia, improved coordination and better and focused support of the United Nations development system, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders,

Reaffirming the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its first 10-year implementation plan, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa's Development and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme,

Taking note with appreciation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/37 of 28 July 2011, entitled "Recovering from the world financial and economic crisis: a Global Jobs Pact", of the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2012 of the Council,[10] which called for increased efforts to enhance coordination at all levels with a view to strengthening national development strategies, investing in productive capacities, helping to start and grow business and promoting opportunities for full and productive employment and decent work for all, and of the integration segment of the 2017 session of the Council, which was convened under the theme "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges", and taking note of the outcomes of that integration segment, including the notion that poverty eradication and pro-poor principles are

[3] Resolution 71/256, annex.
[4] Resolution 60/1.
[5] Resolution 66/288, annex.
[6] Resolution 55/2.
[7] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.
[8] Resolution 69/15, annex.
[9] Resolution 69/137, annex II.
[10] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/67/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, sect. I.

among the main goals of national agendas or long-term national strategies, as stated by countries during the 2017 session,

Recalling the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[11] and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[12]

Acknowledging, in this regard, the efforts to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, welcoming the convening of the second Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up in May 2017, recalling its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations, taking note with appreciation of the first substantive report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, noting that progress can be reported in all seven action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, while acknowledging that many implementation gaps remain, and stressing the need for continued substantive deliberation on the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in the forum as the designated mechanism to follow up on the financing for development outcomes,

Recalling its resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Welcoming the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015,[13] and recognizing the links between disaster resilience and poverty eradication,

Taking note of the adoption of the Nairobi Maafikiano on 22 July 2016, during the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Nairobi from 17 to 22 July 2016,[14] reaffirming the role of the Conference as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, and recognizing that trade and development can contribute to the eradication of poverty and that the Conference therefore has a role to play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

Concerned at the global nature of poverty and inequality, underlining the fact that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and of hunger is an ethical, social, political, environmental and economic imperative of all humankind, and in this regard recognizing that there is a need to better understand the multidimensional nature of development and poverty,

Reaffirming that each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development, that the most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States deserve special attention, as do countries in situations of

[11] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[12] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[13] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

[14] TD/519/Add.2 and TD/519/Add.2/Corr.1.

conflict and post-conflict countries, and that there are also serious challenges within many middle-income countries,

Deeply concerned that poverty acts as a serious impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and that the feminization of poverty persists, stressing the importance of giving women equal rights with men to economic resources, including access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate new technology, reaffirming that women play a critical role in development, contribute to structural transformation and are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty and inequalities and that their full, effective and equal participation in decision-making and the economy is vital in order to achieve sustainable development and significantly enhance economic growth and productivity, recognizing that the economic and social losses due to a lack of progress in achieving gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment are significant and that it is therefore critical that our policies and actions are not just gender-responsive but actively seek to advance the goal of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, and reaffirming that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress in realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and are critical factors in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing that, after the latest global financial crisis, the global economy is still facing difficult macroeconomic conditions, low commodity prices, subdued trade growth and volatile capital flows, that, notwithstanding the impact of the financial crisis, financial flows and developing countries' share in world trade have continued to increase, that these advances have contributed towards a substantial reduction in the number of people living in extreme poverty, and that, despite these gains, many countries, particularly developing countries, still face considerable challenges and some have fallen further behind,

Underlining that the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) coincided with the 2007–2008 shocks in food and energy prices and the onset of the global financial and economic crisis that led to the great recession, as well as witnessed major natural disasters and an escalation of conflicts that erased years of development progress in some regions, in which policy lessons from the responses to these crises and disasters will be important for maintaining the momentum generated by the implementation of the Decade towards poverty eradication and ensuring that markets work better for people living in poverty,

Reaffirming that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, that its adverse impacts undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development, that increases in global temperature, sea level rise, ocean acidification and other climate change impacts are seriously affecting coastal areas and low-lying coastal countries, including many least developed countries and small island developing States, and that the survival of many societies and of the biological support systems of the planet is at risk, which further threatens food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and thus requires urgent action to maintain, preserve and sustain the development gains achieved in the past decades,

Welcoming the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030,[3] and recognizing that an estimated 1.6 billion people — 25 per cent of the global population — depend on forests for subsistence, livelihood, employment and income generation,

[3] See resolution 71/285.

Urging all countries that have not yet done so to ratify and accede to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[16] encouraging parties to review its implementation, committing to making the Convention an effective instrument to deter, detect, prevent and counter corruption and bribery, prosecute those involved in corrupt activities and recover and return stolen assets to their country of origin, as appropriate, encouraging the international community to develop good practices on asset return, expressing support to the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the United Nations and the World Bank and other international initiatives that support the recovery of stolen assets, urging that regional conventions against corruption be updated and ratified, and striving to eliminate safe havens that create incentives for the transfer abroad of stolen assets and illicit financial flows,

Committed to working to strengthen regulatory frameworks at all levels to further increase the transparency and accountability of financial institutions and the corporate sector, as well as public administrations, and to strengthening international cooperation and national institutions to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly in Africa, in the least developed countries, in small island developing States and in some middle-income countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, including full, productive employment and decent work for all, with a view to reducing inequalities within and among countries,

Recognizing the importance of supporting countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and to promote the empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including women, children and youth, indigenous peoples and local communities, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons,

Underlining the primary responsibility of Member States to promote universal health coverage that comprises universal and equitable access to quality health services and ensures affordable and quality service delivery, especially through primary health care and social protection mechanisms, with the support of enhanced international cooperation and with a view to providing access to health services for all, including those who are vulnerable or marginalized, and underlining also that women and children are particularly affected by disasters and outbreaks,

Recognizing the centrality of mobilizing financial and non-financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources, as well as the importance of policy coherence and a coordinated approach that involves participation at all levels by all actors to promote an enabling environment for sustainable development, and of reinvigorating the global partnership for sustainable development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which builds upon the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals,

Underscoring that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognizing that domestic

[16] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

resources are first and foremost generated by economic growth, supported by an enabling environment at all levels,

Acknowledging the important role that the private sector can play in generating new investments, employment and financing for development,

Taking into consideration that official development assistance remains an important source of financing for development in developing countries,

Acknowledging that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, and recognizing the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and pursue sustainable development,

Emphasizing the essential role of inclusive and sustainable industrial development as part of a comprehensive strategy of structural economic transformation in eradicating poverty and supporting sustained economic growth and thus in contributing to achieving sustainable development in developing countries,

Taking note of the work done under the inter-agency, system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication coordinating the efforts of the United Nations system in its advisory and programmatic support to Member States, involving more than 21 agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, and encouraging the alignment of that work with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Reiterating the pledge that no one will be left behind, reaffirming the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, and the wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society, and recommitting to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first,

Recommitting to ensuring that no country or person is left behind and to focusing our effort where the challenges are greatest, including by ensuring the inclusion and participation of those who are furthest behind,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[17]

2. *Recognizes* that, during the implementation of the Second Decade, the international community adopted, inter alia, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[18] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[19] the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[11] the New Urban Agenda,[20] the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled "The future we want",[2] the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[7] as well as the Political Declaration of the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[21] the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[8] the Vienna

[17] A/72/283.
[18] Resolution 70/1.
[19] Resolution 69/313, annex.
[20] Resolution 71/256, annex.
[21] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,[9] the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action" adopted at the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,[22] the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030[15] and Agenda 2063 of the African Union;

3. *Also recognizes* the contribution that the Second Decade has made to poverty eradication, and notes the interest expressed for the proclamation of a Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty;

4. *Proclaims* the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027), within existing structures and available resources, in order to maintain the momentum generated by the implementation of the Second Decade and to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Sustainable Development Goals and their objective of leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first;

5. *Reaffirms* that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, for all people everywhere, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, as well as an overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of which the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is an integral part;

6. *Also reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies for the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication cannot be overemphasized, and recognizes that increased effective national efforts should be complemented by concrete, effective and supportive international programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership strategies and sovereignty;

7. *Underlines* the importance of drawing lessons from the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with respect to strengthening national statistical capacity and monitoring systems to ensure access to data which are of high quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, harnessing partnerships, fostering the global exchange of ideas and experiences and showcasing innovative and efficient initiatives and strategies to eradicate poverty and promote decent work for all, to build momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8. *Expresses its concern* that, while there has been progress in reducing poverty, such progress remains uneven, with the number of people living in poverty in its different forms and dimensions continuing to be significant and levels of inequality in income, wealth and opportunities remaining high or increasing in a number of countries;

9. *Calls upon* the international community, including Member States, to continue to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda and to urgently take measures to address the root causes and challenges of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty,

[22] Resolution 71/312, annex

hunger and all forms of malnutrition, in the light of their negative impacts on sustainable development, through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels, in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, and calls upon donor countries in a position to do so to support the effective national efforts of developing countries in this regard through predictable financial resources and technical assistance on bilateral and multilateral bases;

10. *Also calls upon* the international community, including Member States, to continue their ambitious efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socioeconomic approaches to overcoming poverty, and, in view of the negative impact of inequality, including gender inequality, on poverty, emphasizes the importance of structural transformation that leads to inclusive and sustainable industrialization for employment creation and poverty reduction, investing in sustainable agriculture and quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all, enhancing interconnectivity and achieving access to energy, and improving access to financial services, as well as promoting decent rural employment, improving access to quality education, promoting quality health care, including through the acceleration of the transition towards equitable access to universal health coverage, advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, expanding social protection coverage, climate change mitigation and adaptation and combating inequality and social exclusion;

11. *Welcomes* the remarkable progress made since 1990, which has lifted 1 billion people out of extreme poverty, and the unprecedented decrease in the percentage of people living on less than 1.90 United States dollars a day[27] since the beginning of the Second Decade;

12. *Remains deeply concerned* that, while the prevalence of extreme poverty continues its decades-long descent, progress has been uneven, 1.6 billion people still live in multidimensional poverty, the total number of persons living in extreme poverty remains unacceptably high and the non-income dimensions of poverty and deprivation, such as access to quality education or basic health services, and relative poverty remain major concerns;

13. *Recognizes* the urgent need to address poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity, which will lead to rich payoffs across the Sustainable Development Goals, and encourages the international community to enhance international cooperation and to devote resources to developing rural and urban areas and sustainable agriculture and fisheries and to supporting smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, herders and fishers in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries;

14. *Stresses* the resolve to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, measured since mid-2015 as living on less than 1.90 dollars a day, and the efforts to reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its forms and dimensions, according to national definitions;

15. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders, including organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, to share good practices relating to

[27] From 2008 to mid-2015, United Nations reports on the Millennium Development Goals used a poverty line of 1.25 United States dollars a day, converted to national currencies at 2005 purchasing power parity exchange rates. Since mid-2015, the poverty line has been updated to 1.90 dollars a day, converted at 2011 purchasing power parity exchange rates.

programmes and policies that address inequalities for the benefit of those living in extreme poverty and promote the active participation of those living in extreme poverty in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies, with the aim of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

16. *Emphasizes* the importance of an outcome from the Second Decade, and that, while the centrality of employment and decent jobs to the eradication of poverty is well recognized, employment growth has not been sufficient to absorb the growing labour force, especially in those countries and regions with large youth populations;

17. *Notes with concern* the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, inter alia, among young people, including young women in particular, recognizes that decent work for all remains one of the best routes out of poverty, and in this regard invites donor countries, multilateral organizations and other development partners to continue to assist Member States, in particular developing countries, in adopting policies consistent with the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development;

18. *Urges* Member States to address the global challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing strategies that give young people, including young women, everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work, encourages mass entrepreneurship and innovation, and in this context stresses the need for the development of a global strategy on youth employment, building upon, inter alia, the Global Jobs Pact and the call for action by the International Labour Organization;

19. *Recognizes* that substantial and efficiently spent investments are needed to improve the quality of education and in order to enable millions of people to acquire skills for decent work, and takes note with appreciation of the report of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity and the recommendations contained therein, as appropriate;

20. *Encourages* the international community to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, the poor and people in vulnerable situations, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, as established by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which builds upon the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and addresses their unfinished business, improving access to financial services, including affordable microfinance and credit, removing barriers to opportunity, enhancing productive capacity, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, encouraging the formalization and growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, developing sustainable agriculture and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, emphasizing the important role of national efforts aimed at bringing workers from the informal to the formal economy, guided, as appropriate, by the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204), of the International Labour Organization, complemented by national efforts on effective social policies, including social protection floors, and in this regard takes note of the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), of the International Labour Organization;

21. *Reaffirms its commitment* to embracing diversity in cities and human settlements, to strengthening social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, gender equality, innovation,

entrepreneurship, inclusion, identity and safety, and the dignity of all people, as well as to fostering liveability and a vibrant urban economy and to taking steps to ensure that local institutions promote pluralism and peaceful coexistence within increasingly heterogeneous and multicultural societies;

22. *Acknowledges* that good governance at the national and international levels and sustainable, inclusive, sustained and equitable economic growth, supported by full employment and decent work for all, and social integration, rising productivity and a favourable environment, including public and private investment, inter alia public-private partnership in a wide range of areas, and entrepreneurship, are necessary to eradicate poverty, to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, as established by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of which the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is an integral part, and which builds upon the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and addresses their unfinished business, and to realize a rise in living standards, and that corporate social responsibility initiatives play an important role in maximizing the impact of public and private investment;

23. *Stresses* the importance of using multidimensional indicators and developing transparent measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product in order to effectively reflect the reality of the populations of all developing countries, eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and reduce inequality everywhere, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

24. *Recognizes* that social and economic development depends on the sustainable management of the natural resources of the planet, and stresses the importance of conserving and sustainably using oceans and seas, freshwater resources, forests, mountains and drylands and protecting biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife, as well as promoting sustainable tourism, tackling water scarcity and water pollution, strengthening cooperation on desertification, dust storms, degraded land and soil and drought, promoting resilience and disaster risk reduction, addressing decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation and implementing the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;[24]

25. *Also recognizes* that sustainable, inclusive, sustained and equitable economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment and by ensuring greater coherence among macroeconomic, trade and social policies at all levels;

26. *Stresses* the importance of taking targeted measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, of implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors, and of achieving substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable, and encourages Member States to continue to develop and implement social protection floors based on national priorities, paying particular attention to women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

27. *Also stresses* the importance of policies to address longer-term structural issues, including structural constraints faced by women as economic agents, and to remove any barriers that prevent women from being full participants in the economy, by, inter alia, undertaking legislation and administrative reforms, as appropriate, to give women equal rights with men in political and economic decision-making and access to economic resources and to promote the reconciliation of work and family

[24] A/CONF.216/5, annex.

responsibilities, including through paid maternity and parental leave and the redistribution of the disproportionate work burden of women engaged in unpaid work, including domestic and care work, encourages the private sector, in accordance with national legislation, to contribute to advancing gender equality by striving to ensure women's full and productive employment and decent work, equal pay for equal work or work of equal value and equal opportunities, as well as by protecting them against discrimination and abuse in the workplace, and underlines that globally, gross domestic product could increase significantly if every country achieved gender equality and increased participation of women in the formal labour force;

28. *Emphasizes* the reference in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to the need to ensure the significant mobilization of financial and non-financial resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, as well as regional, subregional and interregional cooperation, in order to provide predictable means for all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions;

29. *Stresses* that the achievement of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty also hinge on the ability and readiness of countries to effectively mobilize domestic resources, attract foreign direct investment, fulfil official development assistance (ODA) commitments and use ODA effectively, and facilitate the transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries, and also stresses that the resolution of unsustainable debt situations is critical for heavily indebted poor countries, while remittances have become a significant source of income and finance for receiving economies and their contribution to the achievement of sustainable development;

30. *Recognizes* that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a global framework for financing sustainable development and is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it and helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, which relate to domestic public resources, domestic and international private business and finance, international development cooperation, international trade as an engine for development, debt and debt sustainability, addressing systemic issues and science, technology, innovation and capacity-building, and data, monitoring and follow-up;

31. *Welcomes* the hosting by the Government of Qatar of the High-level Conference on Financing for Development and the Means of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in Doha on 18 and 19 November 2017;

32. *Recognizes* that additional domestic public resources, supplemented by international assistance, as appropriate, will be critical to realizing sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda acknowledge the centrality of domestic resources mobilization underscored by the principle of national ownership;

33. *Also recognizes* that private business activity, investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation and that private international capital flows, particularly foreign direct investment, along with a stable international financial system, are vital complements to national development efforts;

34. *Further recognizes* that more can be done to create competitive business and investment climates in support of sustainable development that are well placed to attract private sector investment and participation, and encourages an increase in the volume, quality, in particular its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals,

diversification and long-term nature of foreign direct investment to all developing countries;

35. *Welcomes* the progress on financial inclusion across all income groups and all regions in recent years, while being concerned that 2 billion people, primarily in rural areas in developing countries, still do not have access to formal financial services and remaining concerned about the gender gap in financial inclusion;

36. *Notes* that an important use of international public finance, including ODA, is to catalyse additional resource mobilization from other sources, public and private, and through appropriately designed risk-sharing instruments, including co-investments, public-private partnerships and guarantees, and also notes that it can support improved tax collection, help to strengthen domestic enabling environments and build essential public services and can also be used to unlock additional finance through blended or pooled financing and risk mitigation, notably for infrastructure and other investments that support private sector development;

37. *Emphasizes* that international public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources;

38. *Stresses* the importance of mobilizing greater domestic support towards the fulfilment of ODA commitments, including by raising public awareness, providing data on aid effectiveness and demonstrating tangible results, encourages partner countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that ODA is used effectively to help to achieve development goals and targets, encourages the publication of forward-looking plans which increase the clarity, predictability and transparency of future development cooperation, in accordance with national budget allocation processes, and urges countries to track and report resource allocations for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

39. *Welcomes* the increase of ODA in real terms in 2016, but expresses its concern that bilateral net ODA to the least developed countries fell slightly in real terms in 2016, after increases in 2015, and that many countries still fall short of their respective ODA commitments, reiterates that the fulfilment of all ODA commitments remains crucial and that, for many least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, ODA remains the largest source of external financing, commends those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitment to 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries, and urges all other countries to step up efforts to increase their ODA and to make additional concrete efforts towards the ODA targets, welcomes the decision by the European Union reaffirming its collective commitment to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and undertaking to meet collectively the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries in the short term and to reach 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries within the time frame of the 2030 Agenda, and encourages ODA providers to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to the least developed countries;

40. *Also welcomes* the increasing efforts to improve the quality of ODA and to increase its development impact, recognizes the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, notes other initiatives, such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced, inter alia, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action[25] and the Busan Partnership for Effective

[25] A/63/539, annex.

Development Cooperation, which make important contributions to the efforts of the countries that have made commitments to them, including through the adoption of their fundamental principles, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

41. *Recognizes* that the decline in ODA to the least developed countries during the past years was a worrisome trend and that the level of 0.09 per cent of gross national income attained in 2014 remained below the relevant 0.15 to 0.20 per cent target to which many developed countries have committed, and notes, in that context, the 4 per cent real-term increase in bilateral ODA to the least developed countries in 2015 and the projection that the proportion of ODA to those countries will continue to rise in 2016–2019, suggesting that developed countries are reversing the decline in ODA to the least developed countries;

42. *Encourages* all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to strengthen United Nations funding for the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, through voluntary contributions to existing poverty-related system-wide funds;

43. *Acknowledges* the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication, and in this regard emphasizes that, in accelerating poverty eradication, the organizations of the United Nations development system must be driven by national priorities, with the development of national capacities in developing countries continuing to be a core area of focus, and operate in an integrated, coordinated and coherent manner, through development programmes and projects that address poverty eradication as their underlying objective, within their respective mandates, in order to ensure that gains are irreversible, making full use of the interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars of the United Nations development system, and encourages the use of diverse strategies;

44. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development, and recognizes the role of the specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes and regional commissions, including the International Labour Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic Commission for Europe, in contributing to international advocacy for eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including through education and training;

45. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations development system, including the funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, in accordance with their mandates, to assign the highest priority to poverty eradication, and stresses that efforts in this area should be scaled up to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger;

46. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to support Member States, at their request, in strengthening their macroeconomic policy capacity and national development strategies;

47. *Encourages* greater inter-agency convergence and collaboration within the United Nations system in sharing knowledge, promoting policy dialogue, facilitating synergies, mobilizing funds, providing technical assistance in the key policy areas

underlying the decent work agenda and strengthening system-wide policy coherence on employment issues, including by avoiding the duplication of efforts;

48. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no one is left behind and no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

49. *Urges* the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the outcome documents relating to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, as established by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, and the means of implementation, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

50. *Stresses* that the impacts of natural disasters, climate change, conflicts and major outbreaks of disease are severely hampering efforts to achieve poverty eradication, in particular in developing countries, and calls upon the international community to give priority to addressing them;

51. *Recognizes* the importance of addressing the diverse needs of and challenges faced by countries in special situations, in particular African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing many middle-income countries, and therefore requests the United Nations development system, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders to ensure that these diverse and specific development needs are appropriately considered and addressed, in a tailored fashion, in their relevant strategies and policies, with a view to promoting a coherent and comprehensive approach towards individual countries;

52. *Invites* all States, organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations concerned and interested national organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to consider organizing activities for the celebration in 2018 of the twenty-sixth anniversary of the declaration by the General Assembly, in its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992, of 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, in order to raise public awareness to promote the eradication of poverty and extreme poverty in all countries, and in this regard recognizes the useful role that the observance of the International Day continues to play in raising public awareness and mobilizing all stakeholders in the fight against poverty and promoting the active participation of those living in extreme poverty in the design and implementation of programmes and policies which affect them, with the aim of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

53. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a report that details the response of the United Nations system to the theme of the Third Decade, includes an inter-agency, system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system, and contains recommendations concerning how to make the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027) effective, in support of the poverty eradication-related internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, utilizing, as appropriate, existing expertise and poverty-related follow-up mechanisms and processes;

54. *Considers* that the theme of the Third Decade, to be reviewed at the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, shall be "Accelerating global actions for a world without poverty" in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

55. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues", a sub-item entitled "Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)", unless otherwise agreed.

74th plenary meeting
20 December 2017